

Students attend free speech conference

BY JAMIL SMITH AND
KAREN VAN VALKENBURG
Co-News Editor and Staff Reporter

Approximately 60 students from social studies teacher Terry Pollack's AP U.S. History classes and journalism teacher Sally Schwartz's Journalism classes received a grant of \$500 from the Shaker Schools Foundation to attend a national conference on Dec. 12 and 13 celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights at the Cleveland Convention Center.

The conference, entitled "Free Speech Under Siege: Challenges Ahead for the First Amendment", was beneficial to the students, according to Pollack.

"For history classes, it would teach them specifics about the Bill of Rights," Pollack said.

At the conference, the students had many workshops that they could attend. Topics ranged from religious freedom to controversial music lyrics. However, some students said that certain opinions were predominant among the panelists.

"In some of the workshops, opinions were not very balanced in the panels," junior Beverly Smith said.

The issue of free speech as it relates to



SPEAKING FREELY. Jesse Jackson ponders a question addressed to him by junior Lauren Patterson. Patterson was among the students attending the free speech conference with history and journalism classes on Dec. 12 and 13.

sexual and racial discrimination arose in several events at the conference. In one of the most highlighted events of the conference, "Women: Are They Covered by the First Amendment?", panelist Betty Friedan, founder of the National Organization for Women, was the first to say that while the right of free speech has been guaranteed to men, it has not for women. She also said that the same was true for minorities.

Students found Friedan and the other panelists to be intriguing and informing.

"It was really interesting how they discussed how [women] are not really covered

by the First Amendment," junior Meredith Balcerzak said.

The Reverend Jesse Jackson, noted activist and former presidential candidate, gave the keynote address at the Freedom Forum Luncheon on the first day of the conference. Jackson addressed the lack of good education of America's teenagers.

"If a child can operate a VCR, he can do math and science as well," Jackson said. "Young Americans should choose a lifestyle that does not underrate the country's goals."

Students had mixed reactions to Jackson's address.

"He wasn't talking about the issue we were there for," junior Jessica Powell said. "He was talking about the homeless and he didn't make any suggestions concerning how to solve the problem."

The student participation in the workshops was heavy. In the workshop "But Do Some Lyrics Go Too Far?", one panelist, Bradley Steffens, was subject to questions from many students. Steffens' view on the issue was that rap had "no social significance" and provoked violent acts such as murder.

"Rap music is talking about society today," Balcerzak said. "What are you going to do, deny the fact that these things are going on in society?"

Union, board approve three year contract

BY TOM FINCH AND JEREMY KAHN
Staff Reporter and Co-Editor-in-Chief

A pay increase and a reduction in health care benefits were part of the new three-year contract passed by the Shaker Heights Teachers Association on Dec. 11 and approved by the school board Monday.

The new contract gives SHTA members a four percent salary increase during the first year, followed by 4.25 percent and 4.75 percent increases the following two years.

The contract also replaces the first dollar coverage the teachers had been receiving under which there was no deductible for general health care insurance, with a \$100 to \$200 deductible. This deductible is similar to one which caused the 1989 OAPSE strike and which the custodians and bus driver's union approved in their contract.

According to one board member, this health insurance is part of a policy begun three years ago with the administrators and continued in negotiations with other unions.

Settlement of the new contract was reached through negotiations between the Board of Education and the SHTA Collective Bargaining Unit, a negotiating team of nine teachers selected by the SHTA. This group met for 150 to 200 hours to draft the tentative agreement which the SHTA then approved by 71 percent in a district-wide voting on Dec. 11.

Math teacher and SHTA building representative for the high school Gene Tournoux was pleased with the negotiation process.

"I'm happy that we were able to settle the contract

without using an arbiter and with both parties bargaining in good faith. It seems like the contract that the majority of teachers are willing to live with," Tournoux said.

Superintendent Mark Freeman expressed similar feelings.

"I'm pleased with the fact that we've been able to reach a tentative agreement," Dr. Freeman said on Dec. 13, prior to school board approval of the settlement.

Before the SHTA vote, math teacher and active union member Dennis Hogue expressed great optimism that the contract would be approved.

"I feel that Shaker teachers realize that they are the best paid in the state, and that we have the best equipment and incentives. [The agreement] will be difficult to turn down," Hogue said.

After the vote, most teachers seemed pleased with the outcome.

"I liked [the contract] very much. I thought given the economics of this community and the tax rates, it was very reasonable. It was a good contract," social studies teacher Jerry Graham said. Graham added that "some people are unhappy about paying a little more for health insurance, but every company in the nation is being forced to do the same thing."

SHTA official and home economics teacher Carol Bartlett refused comment on the new contract.

The new agreement has both a direct and indirect affect on the student body, according to Hogue.

"The relationship is very intrinsic," Hogue said. "The contract doesn't directly affect the student, but it keeps the teachers happy. It maintains peace in the classroom, which makes for a better learning environment for the student."

Magic helps AIDS awareness, survey shows

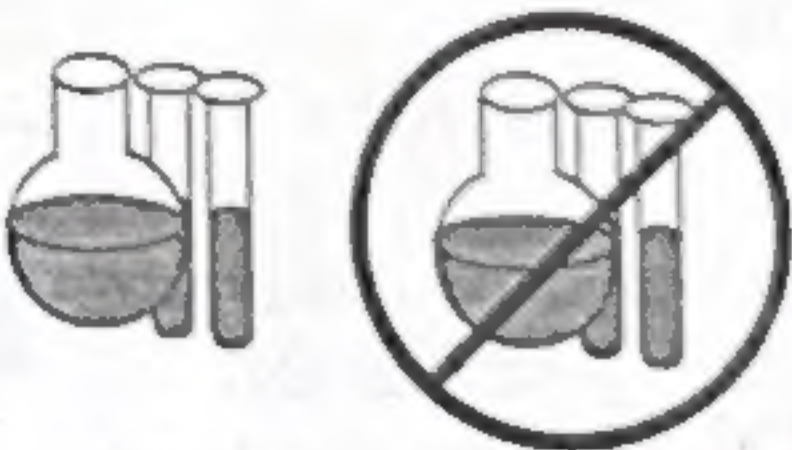
Based on a Shakerite survey of 250 people

SCOREBOARD	
YES	69%
NO	31%



Has Magic Johnson's announcement that he tested HIV positive made you more aware of the dangers of contracting the HIV virus?

Yes 64% No 36%



Do you believe that professional athletes should be subject to mandatory AIDS testing?

Shakerite Graphic by Kathryn Schulz

New class assists foreign students

BY ELIEZER GURARIE
Staff Reporter

English as a Second Language class, a class for seven foreign exchange students and immigrants, began its first year in Shaker last October.

The class was instituted because of a sudden increase in the foreign students of the school. The students include freshmen Marie Stager from the U.S.S.R., Ping Hao from the People's Republic of China and Andreas Terum from Norway, sophomore Elizabeth Komarow from the U.S.S.R., junior Oian Jiang from the People's Republic of China, and seniors Lars Terum from Norway and Khaled Derhim from Yemen.

According to teacher Joan Markey, this cultural diversity enhances the class atmosphere.

"ESL classes are always exciting for the teacher because he or she can always learn so much from the students," said Markey.

Freshman Andreas Terum, who is visiting the United States with his entire family from Forde, Norway, agrees.

"Being in a class with so many people from different countries is very interesting," Terum said.

Markey added that another challenge involved with teaching the class revolves around the varying levels of the student's English development.

"Some kids are just learning basic words, while others are refining their speaking ability," said Markey. "This makes the class harder to teach, but the interaction among the students becomes interesting."

The class in itself is taught with many visual aids and physical activity.

"There is a lot of action in this class," said Markey. "Visual learners, audio learners, listening, speaking, writing, reading, and problem solving are all used in the [ESL] class."

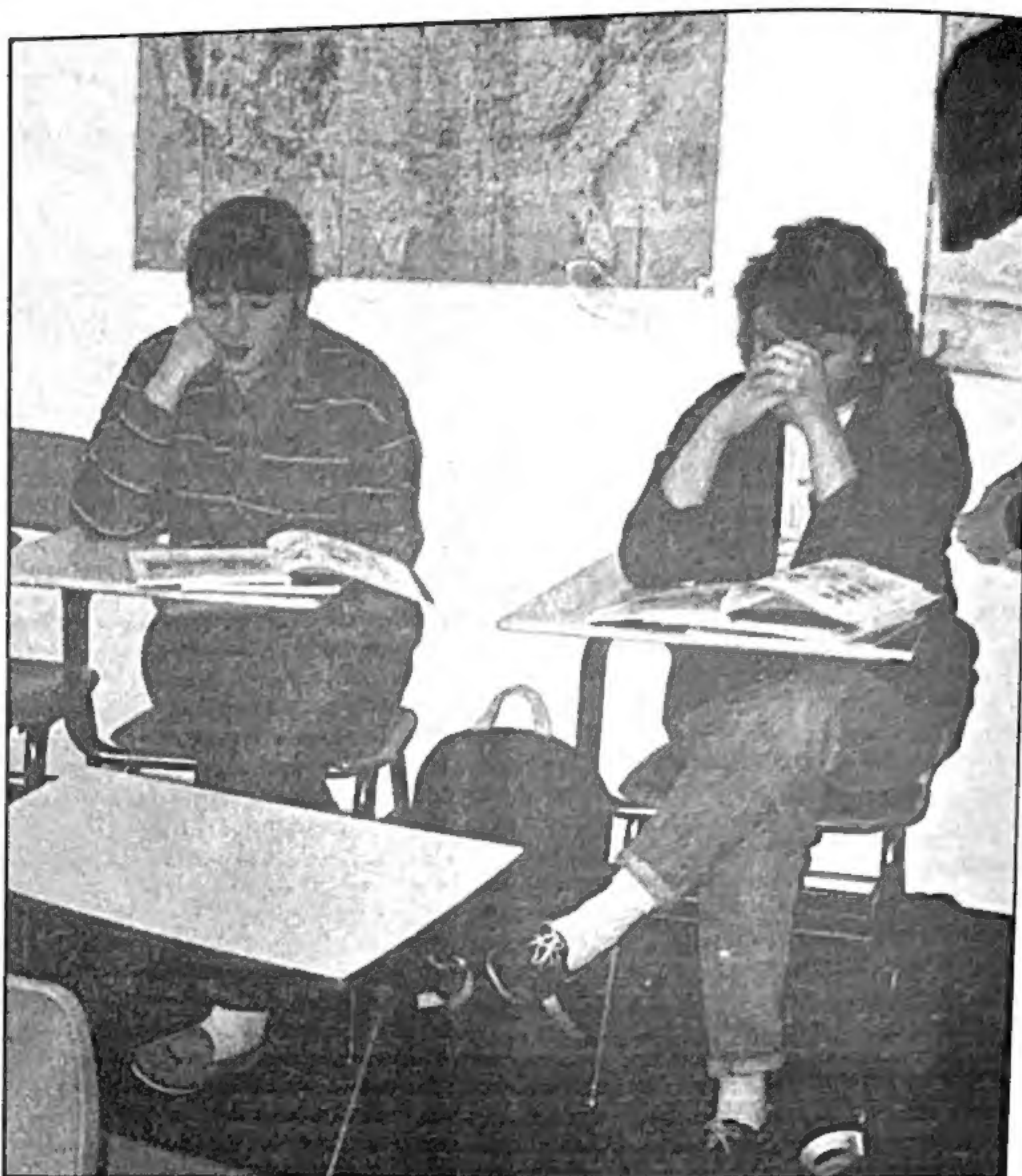
Another requisite of teaching ESL is the cardinal rule of nothing but English, a rule which elicits mixed reactions from the students.

"It is frustrating not to be able to speak Russian but I suppose that it is a necessary rule," said Stager.

Markey added that, although there are a few problems with communication, most students are very enthusiastic.

"I think that [the students] really want to communicate and understand American culture," she said. "It's sort of an intercultural communication that everyone enjoys taking a part in."

Markey expressed a particular interest in inviting students with a free first period to help tutor the students. With one out of five American students categorized as "limited English proficient," Markey cited the ever-increasing importance of teaching ESL classes.



LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE. Freshman Marie Stager and sophomore Elizabeth Komarow study English. The Russian natives are among ten foreign students in the new English as a Second Language class. Photo by Josh Harris

Ninth graders 'more aware' of state mandated tests

BY DAVID LIPTON
Staff Reporter

During the week of Nov. 18-22, while most of the school was sound asleep, the freshmen were at work on the state-mandated proficiency exams.

The test is designed to measure mathematical, reading, citizenship, and writing knowledge. This is the second year the test has been administered.

Last year, 51 percent of Shaker freshman failed one or more parts of the exam.

History teacher James Burry felt that this year's results would be better because students are aware of the test.

"[The students] realize it's real, and that it is something they have to do," Burry said.

To avoid last year's results, teachers have taken time out of the normal class schedule to review material that could appear on the test.

Contemporary World and Global Studies classes took two weeks off to review. They used a curriculum designed by government teacher Jerry Graham. The packet

is divided into sections covering information that could be asked on the test.

"I think the teachers have really helped," freshman Robin Margulies said.

With such a large failing percentage, the question of whether the test is an accurate measure of intelligence has been raised.

"I don't think it's fair because there are

some things [on the test] that you might not have learned," Margulies said.

Freshman Melissa Freiman, however, felt that the test is a fair measure of a person's knowledge.

The time the exams take out of class has been a problem for some teachers.

"We have to cut back on our regular curriculum," said Burry. "We lost almost

four weeks because of the test. It's counterproductive."

Along with preparing students for the information that may be on the test, teachers also shared general test-taking tips.

Burry said the results of the pre-test given in class were favorable, but noted that anxiety could affect some students, who passed the pre-test, on the real exam.

Even with the preparation, there is still the chance that there may be items on the test the students have never seen.

Margulies said that she had never been taught the geometry that was on the test.

"We should be teaching these things in steps," Burry said. "Doing it as one big lump in ineffective."

Burry noted that while some information was from junior high most of the material was new.

Most of the freshman interviewed said they weren't worried about the test. Those who did express concern were worried mainly about those subjects that they were weak in school.

The results of the proficiency exams will be released early next year.



"We have to cut back on our regular curriculum. We have lost almost four weeks because of the test. It's counterproductive."

—James Burry

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Students protest milk hike

BY LORNE NOVICK
Staff Reporter

Accompanying the new furniture in the cafeteria this year has been a rise in the price of milk.

According to Assistant Business Manager Fred J. Shalhoup, the increase is due to new federal regulations in Columbus.

In its last survey of Shaker's food services, the state found that Shaker's prices were not in conjunction with the national school lunch program, which states that a ten cent difference must exist between subsidized and non-subsidized meals.

However, Shalhoup would not rule out that there might be a readjustment between the elementary school, where the cold lunches are served, and the middle or high schools. Shalhoup did state, however, that the prices could never return to the old price of a quarter.

Shaker's new milk prices are very similar to other schools. Cleveland Heights is selling milk for 40 cents, while Orange and Beachwood are selling it for 35 cents.

Executive director of business and personnel Carlton Moody said that the extra funds will go towards minimizing the loss Shaker accumulates over the year. Moody said that the city loses approximately eighty thousand dollars a year.

"The lunch program is one of the few areas where balancing the bucks is important. In the past, we've always lost money we're just trying to break even now," Shalhoup said.

New club encourages leadership

BY CARRIE LYONS AND
NANAR TABRIZI
Staff Reporters

Junior Statesmen of America (JSA), a new student organization focusing on domestic policy and providing students with an opportunity to debate various political issues, has been formed by Jeremy Liegl and faculty advisor Larry Lisak.

"Our first goal is to learn a little bit about what makes the country run and how we, as youth, can get involved," Liegl said. "The word is that youths are apathetic and lazy; our main objective would be to prove that wrong."

Activities include involvement in political campaigns, conventions and elections. A mock political party convention will be held at Shaker on February 29, attracting students from the West Side of Cleveland, Indiana, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Milwaukee. There is also a possibility that JSA members will attend a winter state competition in Washington D.C., for the chance to debate on the floor of the House of Representatives.

"I think JSA will give students a unique opportunity to explore many different aspects of our political system, including debates, discussions, and conferences," Lisak said.

The organization provides students with the chance to meet political figures. Liegl said that the highlight of a JSA summer workshop he attended at Georgetown University were personal meetings with Chairman of the Chief Joins of Staff, Colin Powell, Secretary of Transportation, Samuel Skinner, and senators Robert Dole and Bill Bradley.

This workshop prompted Liegl to es-



OFF TO A GOOD START. Junior Jeremy Liegl conducts the introductory meeting of the Junior Statesmen of America. The new group will participate in a mock political party convention on February 29.
Photo by Josh Harris

tablish one of the first JSA chapters in the midwest. However, finding a student advisor for the organization proved more difficult than expected.

"I was close to giving up after nine weeks. I'm extremely grateful for Mr. Lisak. It takes a lot of responsibility for him to give up his time," said Liegl.

According to Liegl, student turnout at the first meeting was very high.

Many students said they attended the meeting because he was interested in the issues discussed at JSA and the trip to Canada.

"It sounded like an interesting experience and a good way to find out my peers' views on different political issues," junior

Nicole Strachan said.

According to senior Amy Minkowetz, mentioning JSA on her college application was a definite reason to join the organization.

"I think the colleges look for a well-rounded student. I had many other activities like sports. A club that was more 'future of our country' oriented was appealing," Minkowetz said.

Other students recognized the leadership opportunities presented by the organization.

"It's a real opportunity for students to get involved in something. It might eventually produce real leaders," junior Heidi Jacobson said.

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—Beth Lahr, Honors Marketing Student, Class of '94.



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Free speech in student press threatened by censorship

Last week, the City Club Forum marked the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights with a special convention entitled "Free Speech Under Fire: Challenges Ahead for the First Amendment." Many Shaker students attended this two-day celebration and symposium, hopefully returning with a new sense of the danger that censorship and prior restraint represent.

The infamous 1988 Supreme Court decision in the Hazelwood case, which stated that a school district had the right to censor a student publication if its distribution might cause a disruption to the educational process, has had wide-spread effects.

The number of cases of censorship reported to the Student Press Law Center in Washington, D.C., has risen sharply. In fact, the number of calls to the center so far this year is more than twice the number received in 1988, before the Hazelwood decision took effect.

Many school administrations across the country have used the Hazelwood decision as a basis for instituting a policy of prior-review and restraint. Under such a policy, a school administrator would have the right to view a student publication prior to its printing and censor any items it found offensive or which might pose a disruption. Prior restraint shows hypocrisy on the part of school districts, many of which pay lip-service to the First Amendment, praising the freedoms given to citizens under the Constitution, but then censoring their student publications. What sort of message does this send to tomorrow's citizens about freedom? As one speaker at the conference pointed out, this type of censorship is indicative of what the press is like in countries such as China or South Africa, rather than the professional press in this country.

Prior restraint also reinforces the idea prevalent

among many educators that students cannot think or act responsibly, and that student's opinions have little worth. They seek to teach students to act responsibly, but deny them opportunities to think independently. Students do not learn to think critically and responsibly unless they are given the climate in which to do so. It is the schools' responsibility to have teachers qualified to teach proper journalistic style and ethics running their journalism

programs so that the students will be trained to be responsible journalists. Educators should demonstrate more faith and trust in students, holding them to

the same standards as adults, rather than treating them like infants.

An even more ominous development is that many student journalists have begun practicing self-censorship, avoiding controversial topics and real issues rather than risk the wrath of administrators. The fear of censorship has become a pervasive factor in the lives of many student journalists. This evasion of difficult subjects threatens to obliterate the effectiveness of school newspapers.

Luckily, Shaker is not like many districts nationwide. The Board of Education has a policy against censorship and the Shakerite has taken many measures to ensure that the Shakerite maintains its status as an open forum, making censorship more difficult. The Shakerite commends the school board and the community for insuring our right to free expression. We at the Shakerite believe that prior review by any person or group constitutes censorship and that is important to maintain the free and open exchange of ideas. We address controversial issues whenever possible and invite comment on all subjects. We hope that Shaker shall remain a stronghold of free speech in the years ahead.

RITE IDEA

THE TOP TEN

Least successful 'Top Ten' lists...

TOP TEN...

10. Good reasons not to have a student parking lot.
9. Reasons why the Soviet Union should win the award for "togetherness."
8. Famous sayings made by Thomas Jefferson's forgotten little brother, Wally Jefferson.
7. Reasons why I'm glad I'm stuck in Shaker over winter break.
6. Bad qualities about a date with *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit model Elle McPherson (Besides-"You are a girl")
5. Nice things that George Bush has done for the poor this year.
4. Causes for starting a war with Canada, "our neighbor to the north."
3. Best things to do with Garth Brooks if he collapses on your front porch.
2. Reasons to love Saddam Hussein, Moamar Khadaffi, Yassir Arafat and all the other mideast leaders.

and the #1 least successful list...

1. New uses for Dr. Rumbaugh's beard.

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Shakerite artwork by Kathryn Schulz

Cheers to the Latin Club's year-long food drive.

Jeers to the school system's policy on snow days—hell will freeze over and we'll still be in school!!!!

Cheers to Winter Break!! Happy holidays from the Shakerite.

Jeers to the hell-week of school right before winter break.

Cheers to the sometimes successful, but always entertaining, winter sports teams.

Jeers to falling off cliffs.

CHEERS & JEERS

Jeers to those band, orchestra and choir members who didn't help unload fruit.

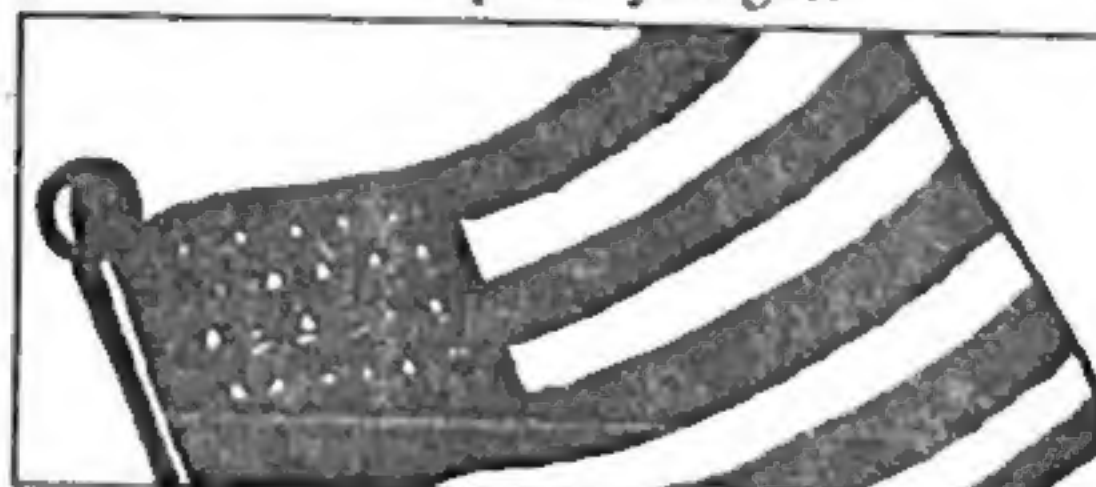
Cheers to Terry Anderson and the other safely returned hostages.

Jeers to making us pay extra for plates in the cafeteria when you buy a whole pizza—how cheap can you get?

Cheers to free speech guaranteed by the first Amendment.

Jeers to the dishwasher in the office—why is it there? Please send suggestions to room 224.

Cheers to freshman...whoops, how'd that get in here?



We The People...

Shakerite artwork by Kathryn Schulz

Legalizing marijuana not moral solution

BY JEREMY PARIS
Opinion and Columns Editor

PERSPECTIVE

Drug abuse is undoubtedly one of this country's foremost problems. The government is continually fighting, and losing, its war against drugs. New solutions must be found before this problem consumes the country.

How many people agree with the previous statement? Probably almost everybody, right? However, one proposed, and hotly debated, solution is legalizing marijuana, a common drug that is considered "light." This plan seems to me to be flawed morally and a way of bowing down to defeat.

The proponents of this plan claim that it would take the sale of marijuana out of the hands of the seedy underworld dealers it now occupies. These same dealers, they say, also encourage marijuana abusers to try "harder" drugs, with more damaging effects, such as heroin or cocaine. Basically, in this plan, the government would regulate the sale of marijuana much the same way that they have regulated the sale of alcohol. By having the sale of marijuana regulated by legitimate sources, they will be able to prevent people from possibly becoming addicted to worse drugs.

I totally disagree. By making marijuana legal, it will say to people that doing marijuana is fine. Marijuana has been proved to have many very harmful effects, especially if taken in any kind of excess. I do not know about you, but I certainly do not trust the American people to control their excess of marijuana use themselves. Look at how people

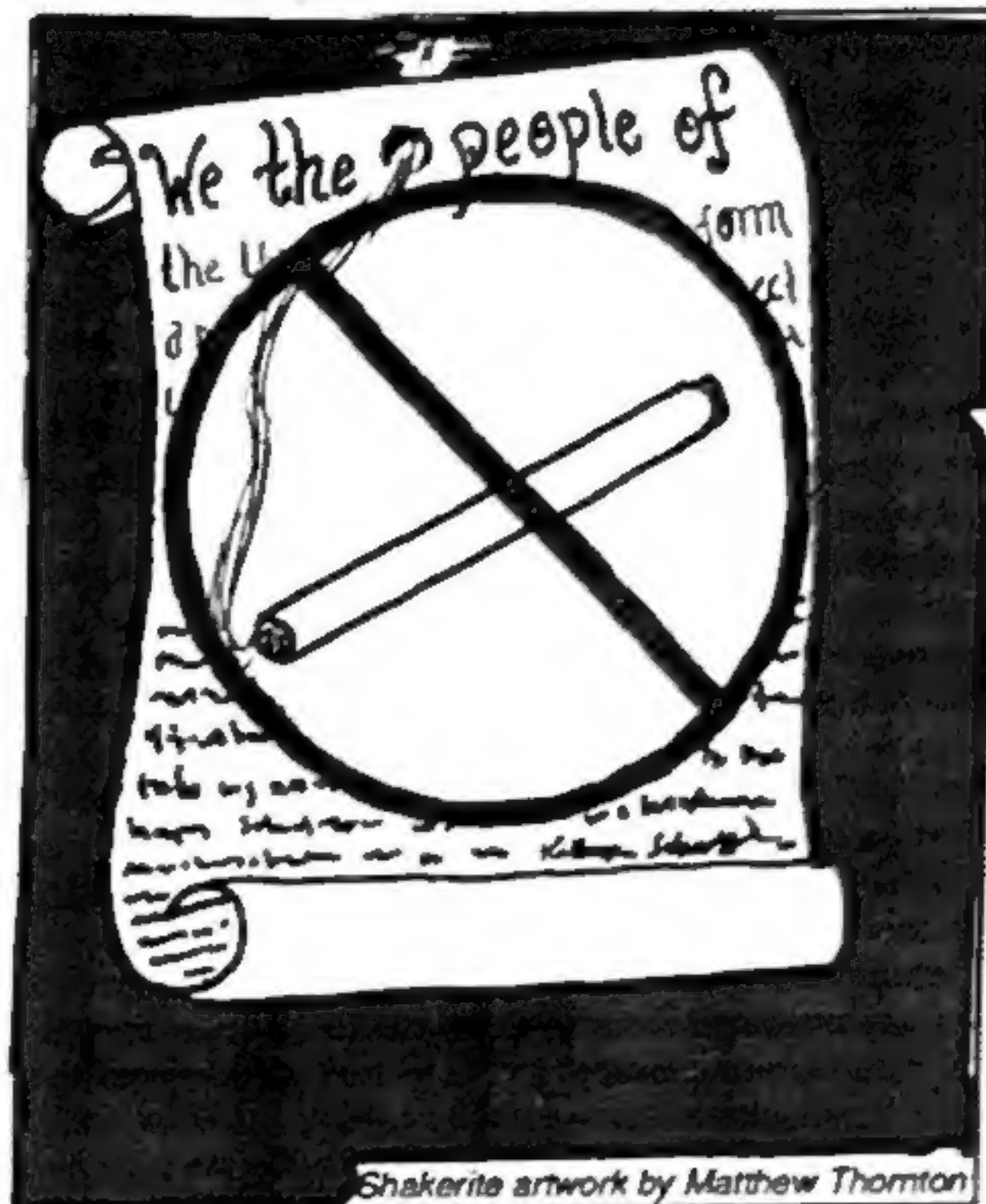
already handle alcohol use. There is a lot of self restraint there.

In truth, the issue of legalizing marijuana is more of a moral and emotional one than one of rational cause and effect. The general message of society is that drugs are wrong and have bad effects. Would it not be compromising this message to legalize something that is considered wrong by most people in this country? What effect would such a message have on the nation's youth which now considers alcohol abuse, common in adult society, to be no big deal?

Children and teenagers would take the view that since it is legal for adults to use marijuana, there can be nothing morally wrong about them using it. This is the view about alcohol among many teenagers; that it is legally, but not morally, wrong to abuse it. When it becomes a simple legal issue, and is no longer seen as a moral one, the conflict becomes one between getting caught or not-not between whether it is wrong or not.

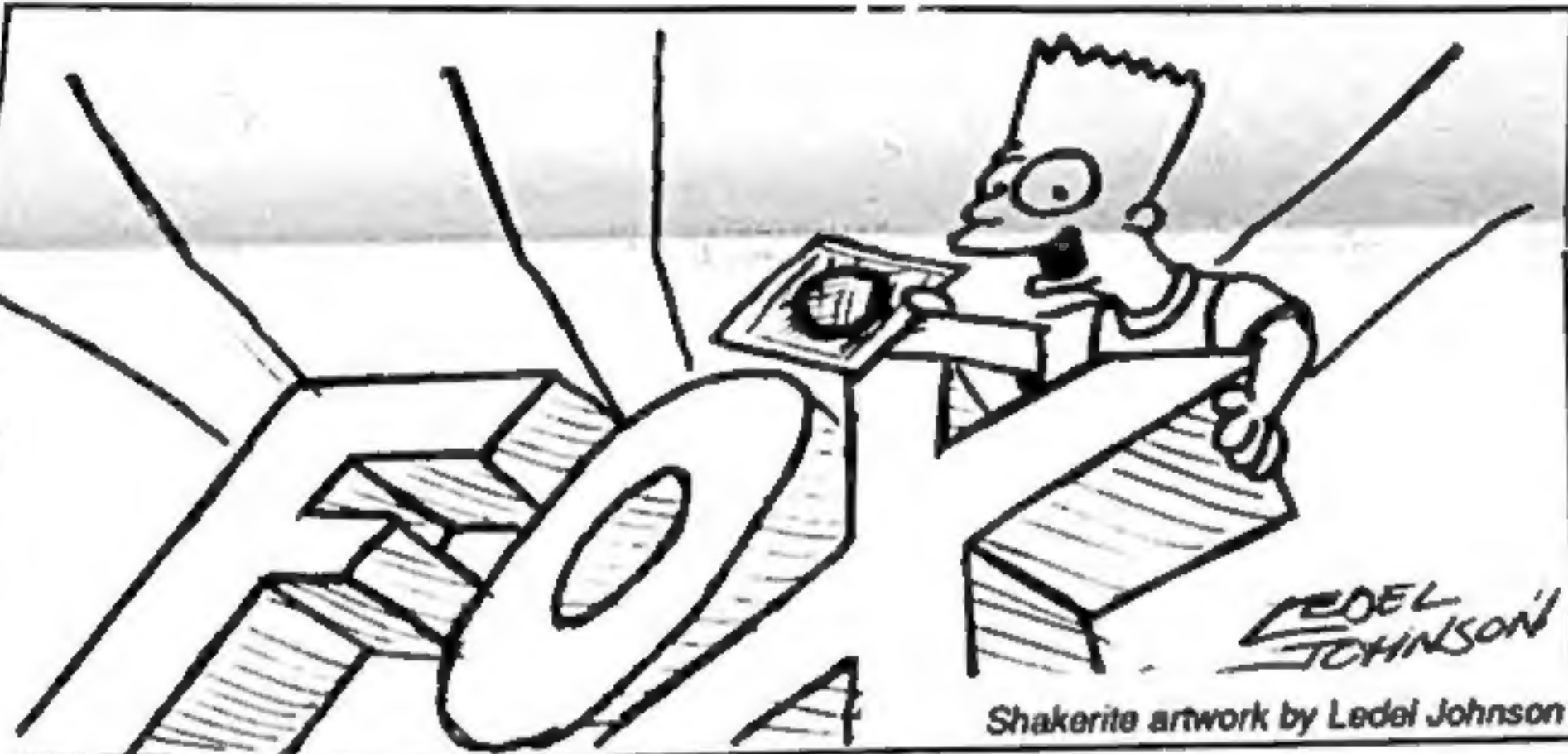
Continuing this train of thought, the arguments of pro-legalizers using prohibition as an example are also flawed. During prohibition, mandated by the 19th Amendment, pro-legalizers claim that making alcohol consumption illegal only increased its use. This may be true, but alcohol was never considered a moral wrong by most of society. It was seen more as a right of their's that was being denied. Legalizing marijuana would not decrease use or have the opposite effect of prohibition; it could only serve to make people's moral view of marijuana change. This would be disastrous because marijuana abuse would become as widespread in the U.S. as alcohol abuse.

There are potentially positive effects to legalizing marijuana, but the moral implications of such a move would have a much more detrimental effect on the country. By stating, clearly, that using drugs, even a "light" drug like



Shakerite artwork by Matthew Thornton

marijuana, is okay, the use of drugs would become the accepted norm in society and the movement to rid drugs from society would be ended forever. At the extreme, I have the scary view of a nation of mostly helpless people being kept happy and, mostly, unaware, by government drug handouts. Besides, if some drugs are seen as morally and socially acceptable, how long would the argument against legalizing even the most harmful drugs last?



Shakerite artwork by Ledel Johnson

Condom ads, education needed to prevent spread of STD's

BY JEFF EPSTEIN
Staff Reporter

Condom.

Does this word make you squeamish? Does it upset you in any way? Do you think it is appropriate for a high school newspaper?

The debate over what teenagers should and should not be taught about sex has been raging for a long time. The issue has been stirred up recently by the Fox television network's agreement to run a series of condom ads designed to prevent pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

Many groups have protested these ads, saying that by advertising condoms on television the message is sent that teen sex is acceptable and perhaps encouraged. The protesters further claim that abstinence, not contraception, should be practiced.

The arguments against condom advertising are shabby. They not only refuse to face reality, but they refuse to compromise.

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, it is time to wake up and smell the 1990's. Abstinence is not happening. Teens are having sex. It is not my job to pass judgement on whether it is right or wrong, but it is a fact that it is happening. The time has come to put the fears aside and deal with the issue.

There is little that can be done to change the fact that teens are having sex. What can be done, however, is to make sure that it is safe sex and to educate the teens about the problems accompanying promiscuity. Condom advertising on network television can and will make a difference.

Because of the recent impact of Magic Johnson's announcement that he has the HIV virus, now is the time when people are listening and can be educated about how to have safe sex. Aids, as well as other sexually transmitted diseases can happen to anyone and this message needs to reach the masses now.

Fox not only has a Constitutional right to run the condom ads, but it has a moral responsibility as well.

The responsibility to educate also falls heavily upon the schools. Unlike Shaker, there are many schools in this country that refuse to teach about birth control and safe sex. Their justification for this is that they think that if kids are not taught about sex, they will not do it.

This country needs to come face to face with an issue that has troubled it for a long time. The commitment toward responsible sex education and toward the universal practice of safe sex must be made and enforced. Aside from education in school, condom advertisements are the best way to reach the population about the need for safe sex.

Subtle racism hidden by Shaker's 'Fantasy Island'

To the editor:
After reading Michael Simmons' letter in the last Shakerite, I began to think about a few things.

I agree when Mike refers to Shaker as a "Fantasy Island." Shaker is a place where some students run around thinking there are no racial problems. One student I know felt that racism is not as bad now as it was in the 60s. This student fails to realize that the men that once wore white hoods now wear three-piece suits and blue uniforms. What once was blatant, outright racism is now subtle, institutionalized racism.

The under-achievement of black students at Shaker is partly due to the lies we are being fed in the classroom. For example, we are only taught that we are slaves in "History" class. We are never told about black Egyptians, who built pyramids and the sphinx. In science, we are taught about Hippocrates, so-called

father of medicine from Greece, but we are not told about Imhotep of Ancient Egypt. Imhotep is the true father of medicine who lived 2000 years before Hippocrates. The saying "Eat, Drink, and be Merry" has been traced back to him.

What I am trying to say is that when we know our past, then we can define our future. Shaker is a "Fantasy Island," and those of us searching for knowledge of self, are still waiting for that plane.

Larry Braddell, junior

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Yearbook denies fault with senior picture selection

To the editor,

Your article "Mistakes plague senior pictures" was completely incorrect. You should have done proper research. I would like to inform the senior class of what really occurred. We, the senior section staff, were put in an unbelievable situation. Due to

circumstances beyond our control, Lifetouch sent the Gristmill staff senior pictures three days before the section was due. It would have been impossible for students to pick their pictures in three days. However, all pictures were picked for good color and clarity as suggested by Lifetouch staff. Jones. Furthermore, the Gristmill staff has absolutely no control over which picture company and publishing company we use, and the deadlines they impose upon us. We worked extremely hard in a difficult situation and did the best we could. We are extremely proud of our section.

Cathy Simon, Gristmill Senior Class Editor

Communication, not specialization, key to learning

To the editor:

As one of the teachers whose assignments seemed "trivial" to Mike Giannelli ("Teachers, curriculum limit education," Nov. 15 issue, page 6), I want to first commend the writer for questioning

the subject matter and teaching techniques of his teachers. Students deserve a voice in determining what they should learn and, ideally, we want them to become independent learners, to ask their own questions and acquire the skills to answer them. However, the writer's blanket criticism of both Shaker teachers and curriculum is unfair and uninformed.

Memorization plays an important part in the application of learning skills. A powerful vocabulary can be gained in many ways, but one valid approach includes exposure to word lists. And in any society where I fear an increasingly high number of people lack a broad base of knowledge, where students "specialize" as early as high school, should we be so quick to decide which facts we memorize in high school are of no consequence? Instead, students should question the purposes of their assignments among themselves and with their teachers when it can be done constructively and with respect. That communication may make the difference between disgruntled acceptance and learning with purpose.

Dana Noble, English teacher

'Doublespeak' trend continues to grow throughout world



Are you aware that the United States is currently experiencing a "meaningful downturn in aggregate output."

What does this mean? It means that politicians have devised a clever method of avoiding saying the word "recession." Come on fellas, you can say it if you try hard enough.

This tactic of creating ambiguous and deceptive (not to mention, absurd) terms is known as doublespeak and is employed frequently in the political arena and elsewhere.

One of my personal favorites is the term used for hallways at a middle school near Seattle: "behavior-transition corridors."

"Pay equalization concept" is also quite clever. This example of doublespeak was used when the senators voted themselves a \$23,200 annual pay raise.

Doublespeak has become so common that an annual Doublespeak Award is given at the National Council of Teachers of English.

This year's winner, the defense department, won after a fierce competition. Their creative use of terms like "servicing the target" (bombing) and "force packages" (warplanes) helped them to achieve this great honor. Among other notables who were recognized for their doublespeak accomplishments were President George Bush and one of my least favorite politicians, Representative Newt Gingrich of Georgia.

Gingrich and a Republican party group of which he is in charge took second place for a booklet entitled *Language: A Key Mechanism of Control*. It recommends that when Republican candidates speak of themselves they use catchphrases such as "environment," "peace," "freedom," "fair," "flag," "we-us-our," "family" and "humane." When speaking of opponents, candidates should use the words, "betray," "sick," "pathetic," "lie," "liberal," "hypocrisy," "permissive attitude" and "self-serving." That Gingrich only took second place really makes you appreciate the efforts of the defense department.

Doublespeak is not merely a national problem, however. In countries all around the world there are men who are "hair-disadvantaged" (bald) or have "fallen chests due to excessive beverage consumption" (beer bellies). Doublespeak is a worldwide phenomena; it is not limited to any country, race, religion or social condition. It is a problem that truly transcends man's differences.

I think that it would be interesting if we used doublespeak at our school. We could have the "receptacle for the plethora of information-laden containing devices," otherwise known as the book bag dumpster in the library.



Shakerite artwork by Kathryn Schulz

Winter break time to relax



Well, it is finally vacation and I finally have some free time. I thought I would take this opportunity, since it is the holiday season, to make a thank you list for all the things I've been given. Teachers have been particularly kind this year, many of them assigning work that was "conveniently" due right before winter break, so students could finish it all in the last few days of school. More specifically:

- Thanks for the enormous psychology paper you so graciously assigned.

- Many thanks for not allowing me to skip the government term paper, I have gained so much from the experience (a few migraine headaches, caffeine addiction, bloodshot eyes...)

- Thank you for the numerous English essays I had the opportunity to labor over.

- Thank you, O thoughtful and compassionate English teacher, for the last minute *War and Peace* reading assignment, which you so rightly fit into the schedule before vacation and thank you for only mandating that the first 1000 pages be read so I will not have to do any of it during vacation.

Thank you ever so much, O wonderful math teacher, for so skillfully cramming every calculus concept into the last week before vacation. And thank you for saving us the time which would have been wasted actually explaining the material.

This holiday season I really have a lot to be grateful for. With all of the work out of the way during the last three days of school, I'm afraid I will have nothing to do over vacation.

Luckily, though, I am stuck in Cleveland over this break, and there are a lot of truly exciting things going on here. A couple of my *unfortunate* friends are being forced to go to Florida, skiing in Colorado, or to unexotic, mundane places like India. For those lucky few of us who will be hanging around Shaker, here are a few suggestions for how to spend break, conveniently divided by age group.

Freshman & Sophomores:

- Sledding, if your parents don't work and can come supervise. Don't forget your snow pants, knee pads and moon boots.
- Watch TV if your mom will let you. "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" is very good, but it might be a little scary at your age.
- If your mom or dad will drive you to a PG-13 movie, you could do that.
- Why not build a snowman?

Juniors & Seniors:

- Go out and party.
- Sleep until noon the next day.
- Hang out in the afternoon. (I know my English teacher said something about a guy named Moby)
- Go out and party.
- Sleep until noon the next day. (Seniors should be noticing a pattern by now. Juniors may need to read a little further.)
- Hang out in the afternoon (What History Day project?)
- Go out and party.
- Sleep...etc.

I know, maybe I could use some of my time on something productive, like coming up with better ideas for future columns...nah! Well that's what I plan to do over vacation. I'm open to suggestions though.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I do not want to ruin anyone's vacation, but I think freshman should prepare themselves for the shock when mom tells them that there is no Santa Claus.

Cafeteria vending machines taunt hungry students

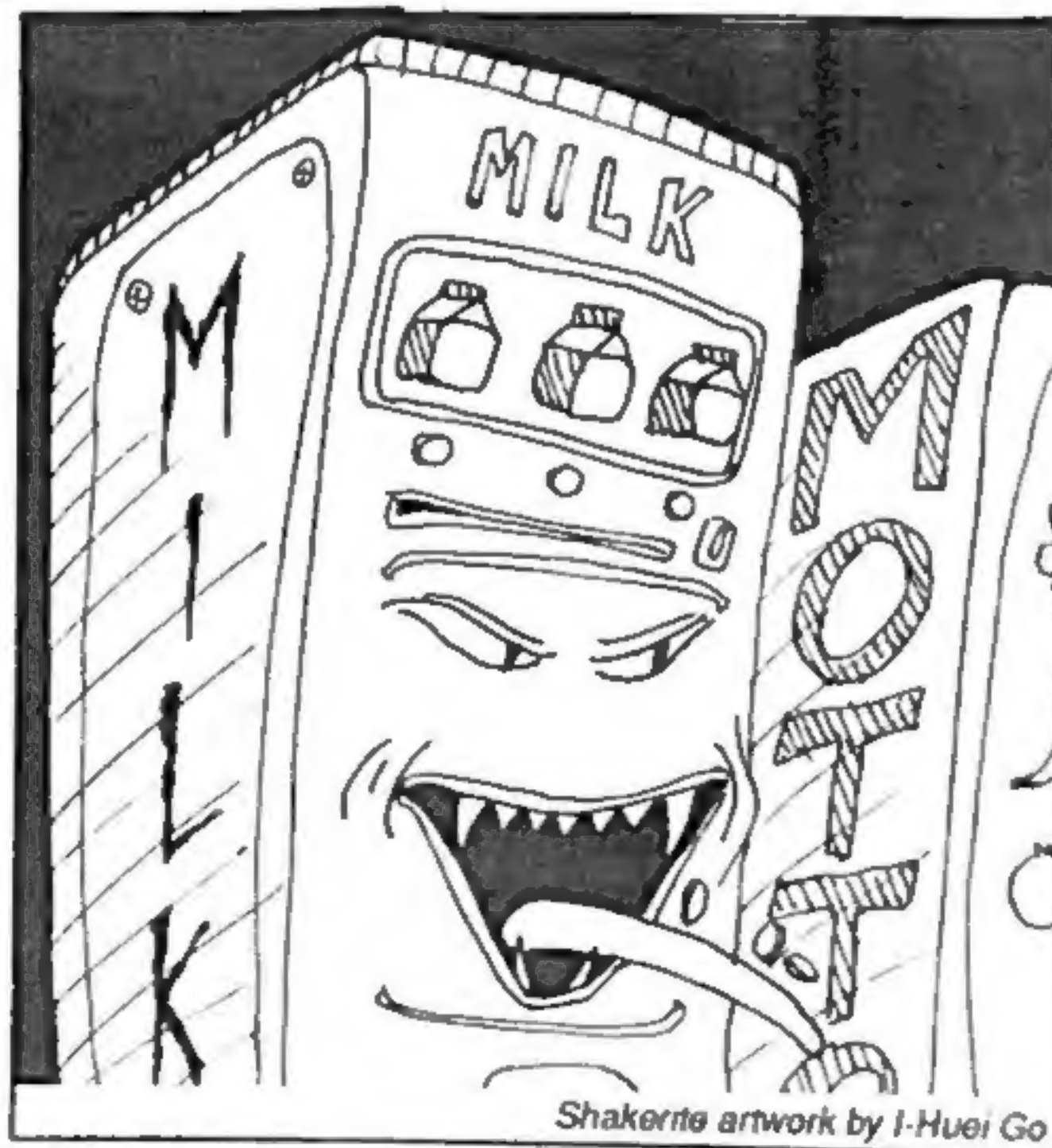


Students are furious with the cafeteria, and for once it is not only concerning the quality of the food. Instead, Shaker demands that the school allow them to buy more.

Ever since Shaker's renovation of the cafeteria, students have used it as a center for social gathering, most of them flooding into the room before school begins. Almost always, they come with a few dollars in their pockets. As they commence in typical chatter, six monstrous machines, filled to the brim with food, stare back at them.

The glass windows of the vending machines taunt the hungry students, hoping that they will soon be fed with quarters. Although the students drool in anticipation, they know that the machines are not turned on. I guarantee you that many try anyhow.

Either first chance at the candy is being offered exclusively to the administration or Shaker has finally lost interest in robbing students of their pocket change. It's time for Shaker administrators to take Mr. Fabrizio's economic classes and realize what a great source of income they are missing



Shakerite artwork by I-Huei Go

out on.

Speaking of economics, what about last month's milk hike? Funny how I'm still able to get a gallon of milk at Finast for \$1.98 and Shaker's miniature 12 ounce containers cost 35 cents. Possibly, Shaker is planning to take the added cost and finally offer a free lunch to their teachers. The least they could do is to offer the day's leftovers to the teachers,

instead of mixing it into next week's mystery beef.

Why can't Shaker be more creative in their financial scandals? How about a pop machine? Maybe the extra caffeine could keep us awake through chemistry and Latin. If the caffeine does not affect us, then the surplus of sugar would keep our eyes bugged out. At least it would look as though we are paying attention.

I have a strong feeling about those Motts drinks. Eight years ago, in second grade, I took Motts apple juice to lunch every day. In truth, I was addicted to the stuff. However, now the situation has been altered drastically. It seems that the product designers at Motts have been busy in those eight years. Not only do they have apple juice but they also offer 10 other flavors; flavors which would make mother nature retch. What's next? Grapefruit-prune and tangerine avocado? Please, I think that a return to the basics is in order.

I noticed that the school is cleverly using vending machines to test our knowledge of the alphabet. Often, they secretly remove several of the letters which correspond to the snacks. If all of the food is still left in that row by day's end, they know that the entire school has forgotten the order of their abc's. However, if that row of food is empty, the administrators can be reassured that we are indeed retaining what we learned.

Do not take these criticisms lightly. Many students spend more time deciding whether they will buy Mike and Ike's or Skittles than they do on their homework, so make them spend their money quickly, during non-school hours. This way they will not be preoccupied thinking about snacking during normal class hours. After all, as the not-so-old saying (I just made it up) goes, an empty stomach goes hand in hand with an empty mind.

'Cape Fear' scares viewers into insomnia

BY CAMILLE LAMPKIN

Staff Reporter

It started off as another normal Saturday night. We were ready to get pumped up for another party, movie or just a relaxing night. What we ended up doing wasn't quite so relaxing.

My friends and I ventured to Severance Town Centre to go see a movie. We didn't know it would make us want to leave the night-light on for the rest of the weekend.

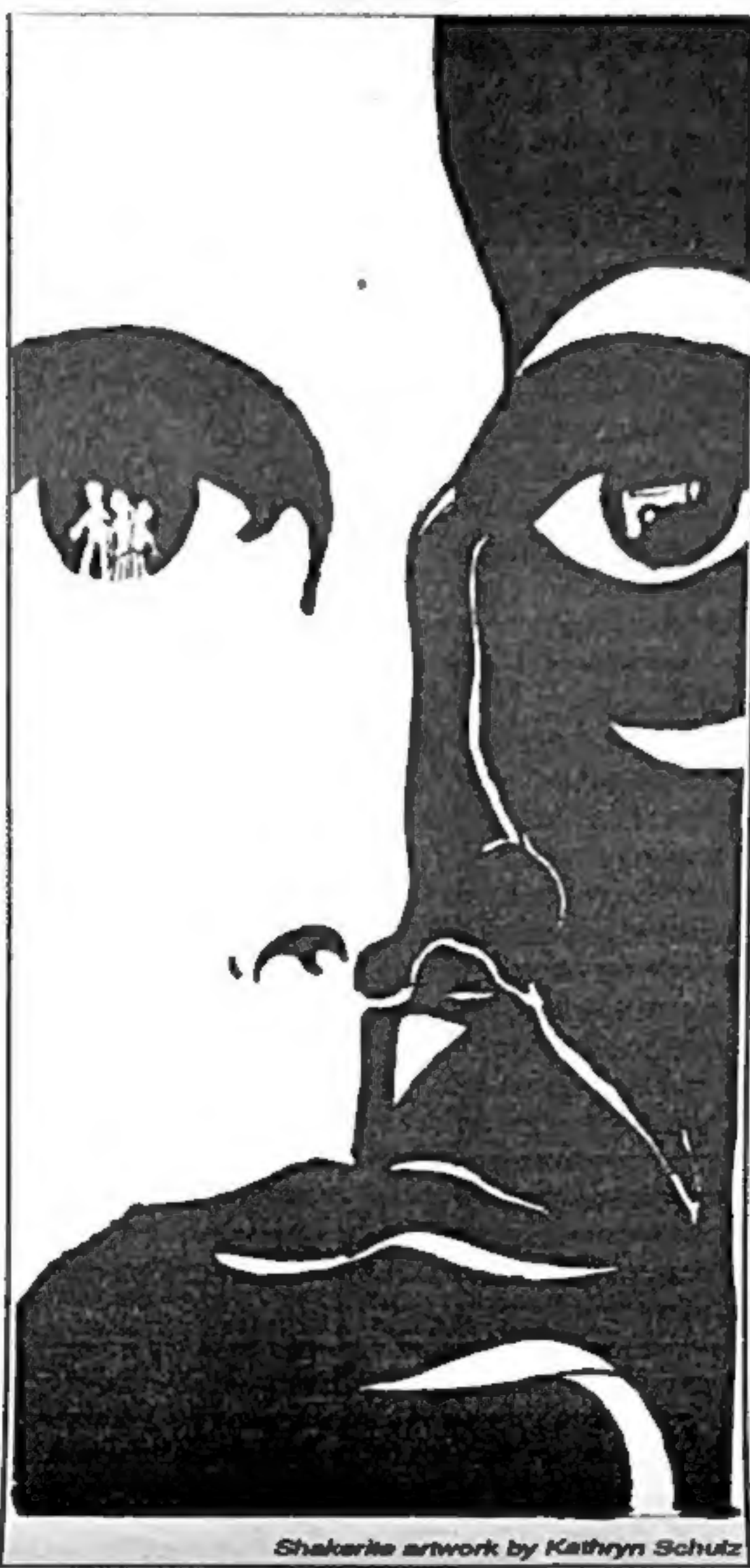
The movie we saw was *Cape Fear*, starring Nick Nolte, Robert De Niro and Jessica Lange. Director Martin Scorsese, who also directed Michael Jackson's video, *Bad*, gave audiences another great show with his latest work.

Robert De Niro plays a psychopath, Max Cady, that has just been let loose from a correctional facility in Georgia. Nick Nolte plays a well-to-do lawyer, Mr. Boden, who has a perfect home, a daughter, and a beautiful wife (Jessica Lange).

Cady comes after Boden because Boden was his lawyer 14 years earlier for charges of rape, which was why he was in a correctional facility. He harrasses Mr. Boden's family (although within the law), and has Mr. Boden freaked out for the rest of the movie. Boden hires a private detective to take care of Cady, but the plan backfires. Cady takes him to court and wins, threatening Boden's legal career. The plot leads up to Cady trying to teach Boden a moral lesson about life.

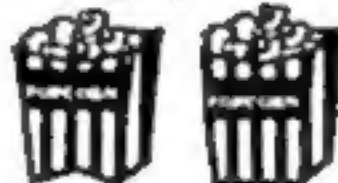
Cape Fear is similar to *Silence of the Lambs* in its psychotic twist. But don't think the movie was all serious, because it had some humorous scenes mixed in also. But if *Cape Fear* didn't have you shaking in your boots and biting your nails, I suggest you go see the nearest psychiatrist.

Cape Fear is full of talented artists, which made the movie particularly enjoyable. So I leave you with a word of advice. See *Cape Fear*, and by a night-light or two.



Shakerite artwork by Kathryn Schulz

Rating (out of five):



Cooker Bar and Grille does job...slowly

BY GREG GOBEL

Staff Reporter

The other night, my friends and I were trying to think of a good place to go to dinner. I suggested that we go to the Cooker Bar and Grille.

Once we got there, we saw a great deal of people inside, eating delicious-looking meals. But it would take a small wait until I could join those enjoying their meals. O.K., so 50 minutes is kind of long.

But finally I got to my table. The waiter was immediately talking to me and my company, although that was his job. At least he was taking an interest in my dining pleasure.

However, as the meal progressed, my friend, the waiter, began to drift further and further away. Eventually, he became completely oblivious to me. It was one of those times when he didn't even have enough time to get me a glass of water.

He did manage to bring the correct food to my table, though, and with a great effort, directly to me. He even remembered to switch the side of mayonnaise in favor of a side of barbeque sauce (note: this switch in side orders is optional).

The meal itself was exceptional. For instance, the fries. Not only were they French, but they were also some of the best fries I have tasted in all of my life. And the free Pepsi refills didn't hurt either.

But the main course was somewhat lacking. It was the 'Cajun Chicken Grille'. Unfortunately, the restaurant didn't emphasize the 'cajun' part. I was expecting something very spicy, and when it wasn't, I was slightly disappointed. But I got over that in time for dessert.

For dessert, my friends and I shared the infamous Snicker's Ice Cream Pie. This was definitely the best part of the outing.

Assuming that our waiter remembered to check the table for his tip, he found a fairly generous one. We left a big tip to show our appreciation for the restaurant's fine production. So if you're hungry (and have time on your hands), head out to the Cooker Bar and Grille.

Rating (out of five):



FUGAZI

'PROGRESSIVE' BAND RELEASES NEW ALBUM

BY RACHEL DIAMOND

Staff Reporter

A year and a half ago, I heard Fugazi for the first time. I began to listen to them a lot, so when I heard they would be playing at Flash Gordon's Night Club this past July, I was excited. I knew this meant they would be coming out with a new album soon, and I've been waiting (until now) ever since. At the show, Fugazi played most of the songs off their latest album, *Steady Diet of Nothing*.

Unlike most of the rest of the crowd, I had previously heard the unreleased gem (although I can't reveal my sources). However, the audience's response to the new songs was as positive as it was for the music they were familiar with. This is probably due to the blind faith that many Fugazi fans have for the band. But at least part of it was because of the excellence of the music and the performance.

Like most other bands on their label (Dischord), the most amazing aspect of Fugazi's music is their creativity, rather than the quality (although they do have quality). Bands such as Soundgarden, Mother Love Bone, Nirvana and Mudhoney all have a similar style. But all of these groups have such diversity in their sounds. Fugazi does not stray from its original sound in their new album.

For those of you who do not know Fugazi, I'll attempt to put their music on paper. All four musicians are quite



Shakerite Artwork by Kathryn Schulz

talented, and this is demonstrated by their music. The guitar riffs are extremely original, but they lose all their charm on an acoustic guitar because there is no feedback. The bass lines are great also. Dischord always mixes them loud enough so you don't have to adjust your stereo, but not too overpowering. For those of you funk fans out there-sorry. This is strictly punk. Many people are turned off by Fugazi because of the vocalizing. Ian MacKay, one of the two singers, does have a tendency to go off key. I guess that would make harmonizing a song kind of hard. But this has never detracted from my enjoyment of the music, though, and judging from the fact that Fugazi is the most popular small label punk band internationally, it must not affect many other people either.

In their new album, Fugazi keeps up the same style, with songs like "Stacks," "Polish," "Dear Justice Letter" and "Reclamation." The lyrics are excellent as always, and as before, they deal with relevant issues. I listen to Fugazi as much for what they say as for what they play.

Rating (out of five):



Lending a helping hand...

Community service provides moral values, sense of accomplishment

BY REBECCA DAVIS
Staff Reporter

Volunteer work, unlike participating in a sport or an arts activity, receives no credit and often no recognition. Yet, for many reasons, high school students continue to tutor inner city children, help victims of abuse, teach handicapped children and defend the environment.

"At first you feel reluctant to [volunteer], but once you're doing it you get this feeling that you're helping someone and after that you can't feel any way else," explained sophomore Geoff Goss. Goss has worked with Habitat for Humanity, building low-cost homes, and has visited retirement homes.

"These people appreciate what you're doing and it feels good to be appreciated," Goss added.

Several students said that parental pressure was the first reason that they began volunteering.

"My mom used to make us go down to the soup kitchen, and then I started to like it," sophomore Erin Stevens said. Stevens also works with mentally, physically and hearing impaired children.

"Now it's a priority," she said. "I'd rather do it over school work."

An awareness that the earth needs his help encouraged senior Mike Russell, president of the Environmental Club, to do his part.

"If I want something to be done, I know I have to do it myself," Russell explained. "To volunteer, I know something that needs to be getting done is getting done."

Selfishness, not selflessness, is the main reason that people choose to help others, according to science teacher Robert Sylak who is adviser to the Interact Club.

"I think everyone has an innate sense that helping

people makes you feel good," Sylak said. "Even little kids, although they may be selfish, take joy in helping each other or teaching each other. I think part of your fulfillment as a person is doing that activity. So it's really not altruistic. It's really kind of selfish because it makes you feel good."

Despite so many convincing reasons to volunteer, many students remain disinterested and uninvolved.

"I think kids are getting lazy and selfish," Stevens said. "I think most kids would rather get paid instead of volunteering."

Similarly, senior Jackie Bridges, who tutors in the inner city and volunteers at the Metzenbaum Center, said that student interest is declining.

"[Students] just figure that since other people are doing it, they don't need to," Bridges said. "People think that [volunteering] isn't going to make a difference."

This problem is an old and unchanging one, according to sophomore Andrea Johnson, who also tutors inner city children.

"Did kids used to volunteer any more?" Johnson asked. "Teenagers have never been the kind to devote themselves to other people. I don't think it's gotten much different."

Sylak disagreed, noting that in his 15 years as the Interact Club advisor, a large group of students have annually shown interest.

"I don't think it's an active choice [whether or not to volunteer]," Sylak explained.

"I don't know many kids who would choose not to. It's not that some kids choose not to, it's just that some kids actually seek a volunteer situation. I think if you look at everyone in this high school, everybody strives to do something for somebody else," Sylak added, "but they just don't all do it in an organized fashion."

These volunteers agreed that there needs to be a school-wide effort promoting volunteer activities to increase the

number and diversity of students who participate. Sylak said that the key is enabling non-volunteers to experience the value and satisfaction of giving.

"If we could get [students who do not volunteer] to experience that feeling, we could increase the number of kids that volunteer," Sylak said.

Sylak added that every former Interact Club member with whom he has spoken has continued to volunteer beyond high school.

"They went to college and they looked for an opportunity to volunteer," he said. "They've experienced that feeling."

Senior Deitra Harrison, who volunteers at the Metzenbaum Center, agreed with Sylak.

"Just talk about how good it will make you feel if you volunteer," she said. "I feel good about volunteering because I like helping children and other people."

The problem is one of convenience, according to Stevens.

"I think if the school made available places where you could volunteer, more people would, especially if they had some way of getting you there, because I think it's especially hard to find somewhere to go if you're under 16," she explained.

Environmental education should be addressed similar to the way schools are teaching sex education, according to Russell.

"The primary teaching was education to the 9th grade and I think they should start teaching [environmental sciences] to the younger generation to let them know that it's up to them to fix what our ancestors and parents and grandparents screwed up," he said.

Whether they started to please their parents or to ease their consciences, students agree that the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment they experience from volunteering are invaluable feelings that everyone should enjoy.

Shakerite Graphics by Kathryn Schulz

Bicycling tour brings tears, satisfaction

COMMENTARY

BY KIM RATHBONE
Staff Reporter

My original intent was not to make local headlines, nor to be hailed as a charitable person, but simply to get some exercise.

This summer, Leslie Chase and I, along with 2,500 cyclists participated in the Ameritrust 150 mile Bike Ride for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. We cycled to raise money for those with Multiple Sclerosis, a disease affecting the nervous system. In order to partake in this event our collections had to reach a minimum of \$150.

We decided, inspired by a friend, to attempt to raise the most money in order to win the grand prize, an all expense paid trip for two to Hawaii. Though this was an incredible goal, we succeeded by asking over 1,200 people throughout the Greater Cleveland area to sponsor us.

In general, the families and businesses that sponsored us took a positive attitude toward the bike ride. One man not only provided money, but gave emotional support as well.

Leslie and I walked into Van Aken Hardware after a long, unsuccessful day of collecting. We wanted to ask the owner for a contribution because we were told he was extremely generous and always supported charitable causes.

We explained our excursion and the owner handed us a check for \$50. I was astonished, this was the single largest individual contribution given to us ever. However what touched me the most was the tear that rolled down his cheek when he reached out his hand.

"My wife has something similar to Multiple Sclerosis and I'd like you to go on the ride for her," said Lou Freiberg, the owner of Van Aken Hardware.

It was Freiberg's kindness and tears that made us realize the affects this disease brings upon people both physically and emotionally. We decided that if we won the trip, we would give it to the Freibergs to repay them for their kindness.

We solicited door to door and by phone for almost three hours a day for two and a half months. We called businesses and placed jars in various stores around Shaker and downtown Cleveland. Through all of these techniques successfully raised approximately \$5300 for Multiple Sclerosis.

On Nov. 2, we received phone calls informing us that we won the trip, since we had raised the most money. Three days later we walked back into Van Aken Hardware to offer Freiberg and his wife the trip to Hawaii.

"Let me get this straight," he said. "You want to send my wife and me to Hawaii and I was the one who motivated you?"

He asked for our names and phone numbers and said he would think about it. He wanted to talk to our parents and to the Multiple Sclerosis Society to make sure it was possible.

It was not until Grati Segall, a reporter from the Cleveland Plain Dealer, gathered Leslie and me and the Freibergs together for an interview that I saw Mr. Freiberg again. It was also the first time we met Mrs. Freiberg, who within the first minute she was already in tears.

As we told our versions of what happened and shared our emotions, it was as if we had known each other for years instead of meeting for the first time.

Leslie and I knew this is what we had worked so hard for. My heart swelled knowing I could make someone else so happy and I had to fight back my own tears.

It is with great pleasure that I tell people my story. It is an event that has clearly helped me to grow and to learn to always help others.

Mandated volunteering raises controversy

BY JOSHUA GOODMAN
Staff Reporter

In an effort to increase student awareness of community involvement, teachers and administrators have expressed interest in requiring volunteer hours.

Shaker has already moved toward this requirement. This year, sophomores in health classes have the opportunity to participate in a pilot program which rewards students with extra credit for volunteer service. In addition, with 20 hours of service to their credit, recognition will be given on their high school transcript.

According to Dr. William Newby, chair of curriculum instruction, the program was instituted "to aid in the development of each student's awareness of and attitudes towards service to others."

The program is not currently mandatory for graduation. However, according to Newby, a required policy is being contemplated by both Shaker and the Ohio State Board of Education.

"It is still too premature to say that we

will institute a policy where students need to graduate with a minimum amount of volunteer hours," said Newby. "In order to prepare ourselves to discuss it intelligently, a pilot program has been initiated to gather information about how a program like this would impact the student body."

Teachers have reacted differently to the idea of mandatory volunteer hours. Economics teacher Sal Fabrizio is strongly against any volunteer service requirement. While Fabrizio maintains that he strongly believes in volunteering, he is opposed to any governmental interference in student's "individual choice."

"I believe in volunteering, but for the school to mandate a policy of required volunteer hours is a contradiction in terms," said Fabrizio. "No government institution has a right to demand this. Government should be as non-intrusive as possible."

In contrast to Fabrizio's stance were those of American history teacher Terry Pollack. Pollack, who supports a volunteer requirement by the school, said that a community service mandate will provide students with an opportunity to apply what they learn in the classroom.

"In an age of individualism and selfish-

ness, we need to give students an opportunity to outreach to the community and give them a chance to share and give back to the world what the world has given them," said Pollack.

The debate about a volunteer service requirement is not limited to teachers. The majority of students are opposed to such a policy, but for different reasons.

Junior Joel Freimuth opposes mandated volunteer hours and said that the family, not the school, should bear the responsibility of installing moral values and ethics.

"People should volunteer because they want to, not because they have to," said Freimuth. "They should see the value in their service for themselves."

Unlike Freimuth, Newby supports the addition of a volunteer requirement to the curriculum. He believes that community service gives students a higher self-esteem, a greater sense of their relationship to their community and an awareness of their own ability to contribute.

Newby also stated that the requirement will have an indirect effect on a student's academic performance.

"After realizing their own personal worth, students will be more inclined to

work harder," Newby said.

Still, other students complained that the school requirements were already too plentiful.

"I would love to volunteer, but I don't have time," said junior Beth Tross. "Teachers give us too much work already."

Another teacher, who asked not to be identified, opposed a policy of volunteer service. She, like Freimuth, felt that it was the responsibility of the family to instill these values. She noted, however, that in the areas such as sex education, schools have had to follow through with what used to be the responsibility of the family.

Junior Jessica Morton found the idea of a volunteer service requirement disappointing. With so many school problems, she questioned why the administration chose to select this one.

"There are many more relevant requirements that the school should enact, such as economics," said Morton.

Mandatory community service means different things to different people. For some it is a laborious task which can only intrude on student freedom, while some see it as a valuable opportunity which will create a more well-rounded student.



KIDDING AROUND. Sophomore Kim Guyton chose to fulfill her community service hours for health class by volunteering at the Children's Museum.

Shakerite Photos by Josh Harris

A Winter Dream...

Cast of 50 performs in theatre production

BY ANDY ELLNER

Staff Reporter

After over a month of preparation, a cast of over 50 students presented Shakespeare's comedy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, to a greatly approving audience.

Thornton attributes a great deal of the play's success to the skill and experience of many of the actors.

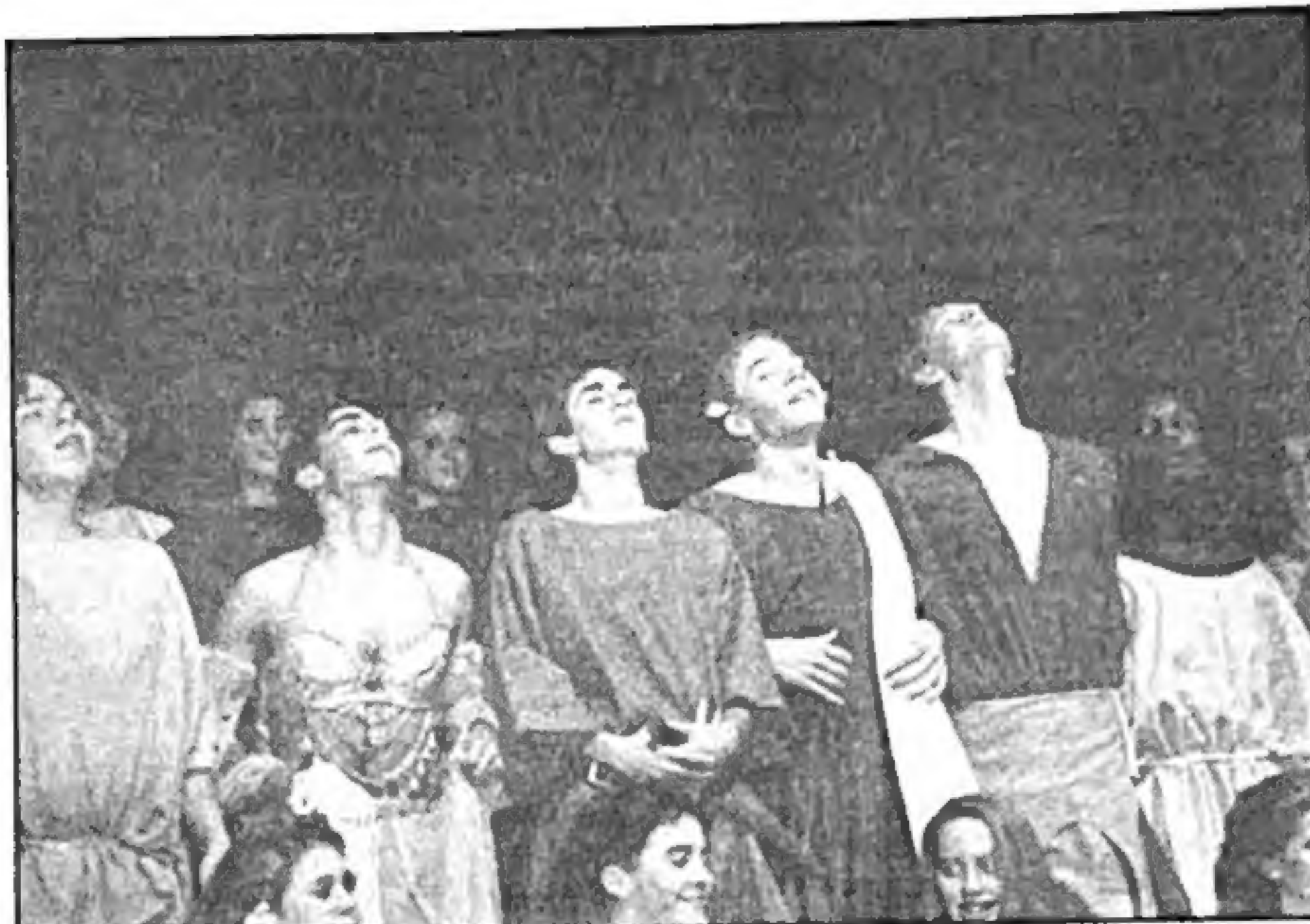
"You pick plays in a large measure by who you have to do them, and what they can handle. This was a group of people that could handle these roles."

He also said that it is a common misconception that this play is easy to put on, simply because so many high schools do it. He said many aspects of the Shaker production were unique. One quality singular to this production was the size of the cast.

"*A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a play that you could do with 14 people," senior Jason Buckles said, "but Mr. Thornton undertook to add roles so that more students could be involved."

Thornton said there were over a hundred students who auditioned for parts in the play. To accommodate for such a great interest, he created room for a cast of over 50 actors and actresses, he said.

One addition Thornton made was a court of fairies that followed Oberon, King of the Fairies, throughout the performance, to accentuate his movements. He said their actions had to be coordinated with the other



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. The Shaker Theatre Department performed the Shakespeare classic last week. Among those bowing are senior Rider Babbitt, juniors Carter Bays and Andy Federer and sophomores Adam Hendry and Brian Leiken.

Shakerite photo by Sam Schmidt

characters in order for the play to be successful.

The movement of the fairies was just one of a great many artistic interpretations that contributed to the play's success.

Thornton said associate guest artists Wendy Klein-Mittleman and Sara Smith were major contributors to the aesthetics of the

performance. Kriss-Mittleman developed new dances and movements, while Smith composed original music.

Other additions were made by the actors themselves, according to junior Andy Federer.

The students were able to improvise, and to attach their own personal touch to

their characters, he said.

"We were able to add things that aided the flow of the play," senior Jennifer Rubins said.

Thornton said he made one major interpretation in the play.

He said the portion of the play set in the night-time was interpreted by Thornton to represent the dream of King Theseus. To account for this, senior Matt Thornton was double-cast in the roles of Theseus and Oberon.

Technical Director Walter Boswell supervised the construction of the set. However, the set was not entirely constructed out of inanimate materials, as the statues were actually played by students.

"We used an ensemble tool called suspended animation to simulate the statues," said Thornton. "Students are in a state of animation, but suspended in action, almost like a photograph."

The actors who played statues actually studied Greek art books in order to position themselves in the most accurate manner to fit their roles, Thornton said.

The actors said that the audience was pivotal to the success of their performance.

"It went really well, and the response given by the audience made our jobs a lot easier," junior Kim Butler said.

The audience demonstrated their feelings for the play by their attendance and their response, and as for the director, his sentiments are not all that different.

"At this point I'm very excited," said Thornton. "I'm really happy and proud of the work we have done."

Making sweet Music: Jacobs Draws Praise

BY BECKY DAVIS

Staff Reporter

Principal oboist for three orchestras, co-principal of another orchestra and the recipient of several musical awards, senior Erica Jacobs devotes much of her time and energy to playing her instrument.

Although she played the clarinet for several years, Jacobs said she always wanted to play the oboe.

"I think [the oboe has] got the best sound of any instrument, but then again I'm pretty biased," Jacobs said. "It has the power, more than any other instrument, in my opinion, to move people."

Jacobs is one of several principal oboists for the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, co-principal of the Cleveland Youth Wind Symphony, principal of the University Circle Chamber Orchestra and first chair oboist of the high school Wind Ensemble.

Further, Jacobs was the only student in Ohio asked to audition for the National High School Honors Orchestra.

All of these musical activities are time consuming.

"I practice every day and usually try to make it between an hour and an hour and a half," Jacobs explained. "That's kind of a lot for a wind player."

This summer, Jacobs gave a solo recital that urged her to practice additional hours.

"Just before a recital I usually practice solid about four hours a day," she said. "I was really scared going into it, but it went well overall."

Jacobs' ability has earned her recognition from many people, according to Hans Bohnert, high school band director.

"At the state band contest last year, the

head adjudicator came up to me after they had performed," Bohnert said. "[He said] he enjoyed her just giving the tuning pitch to the band because she gave such a mature sound."

Jacobs has mixed feelings about her instrument, because it requires so much dedication.

"Sometimes I can't wait to start a new piece," she said. "But sometimes it's 'Oh no, I gotta go practice or my teacher is going to kill me,' that sort of thing."

Similarly, Jacobs said she has conflict-

ing opinions about listening to the accomplished playing of professionals.

"One of the most frustrating things about being a musician is having to compare yourself

to people that are beyond comparison," she said. "There are many good players, but there are only a few great players."

"It's strange," she continued, "because the most frustrating aspect is in a way the most encouraging. When you hear these people play, it inspires you to be great."

One great oboe player and teacher that Jacobs admires is John Mack, the principal oboe player in the Cleveland Orchestra.

"I would like to study with him next year," she explained. "I'm planning on auditioning for the Cleveland Institute of Music to study with him."

Another oboist who has inspired Jacobs is her former teacher, Laurie Lubick.

"When she plays, the sound, it grabs you by the throat," Jacobs said, enthusiastically. "It's very unique. And she's taught me basically everything that I know, and I owe a lot to her."

Although Jacobs was a good band member through the 10th grade, Bohnert

said that her abilities have rapidly progressed since then.

"I think [her ability] is a combination of a lot of talent and a lot of hard work," Bohnert said. "She's also studied with a lot of high-quality professionals."

Bohnert also mentioned Mack as a source of inspiration, and said that Mack is one of, if not the, best oboe players in the world.

After college, Jacobs said she is skeptical about where a career in music might lead.

"My dream is to be a professional orchestral oboist," she said, "but I'm aware that a lot of people share that dream, so we'll see."

However, Bohnert said that he believes



Oboist extraordinaire. Senior Erica Jacobs.

Photo courtesy of the Gristmill

that Jacobs has the potential to join a high-caliber professional orchestra.

"There are a lot of talented people at Shaker, obviously, but she has just taken off," Bohnert explained. "She's one of the finest high school musicians in the country and she deserves that recognition."

In the band's Dec. 17 concert, Jacobs will be spotlighted in two pieces with featured oboe and french horn parts, "The Italian in Algier," by Rossini, and "Russian Christmas Music," by Alfred Reed.

After so many hours dedicated to the oboe, Jacobs paused for a moment before she said what instrument she would play if the oboe was not part of her life.

"Well, I suppose I should say the piano because it's practical," she said, "but I'd really like to play cello because there are some really gorgeous pieces written for cello."



There are a lot of talented people at Shaker, obviously, but she has just taken off. She's one of the finest musicians in the country and she deserves that recognition.

Hans Bohnert

'More than numbers': Math department embraces new conceptual approach

BY MELISSA MILLER

Staff Reporter

The idea of having to study why the quadratic equation works instead of simply memorizing the formula is not a concept most students are accustomed to, but students are gradually becoming familiar with this approach to learning mathematics.

This is only one of many new ideas being instituted at all levels by the Shaker school system as a result of new goals in mathematical education set by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The math department, headed by Raymond Skitzki, has been working hard to change its approach to the regular curriculum of algebra, geometry, trigonometry and functions.

"For the past two years, nearly all the high school math teachers have worked over the summer to revise the curriculum to bring it up to NCTM standards," Skitzki said.

The math department has been using two books, *Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics* and *Professional Standards for Teaching Mathematics*, to guide them in reshaping the math curriculum.

These books stress reasoning, problem solving, logical approaches and connecting mathematical concepts rather than just memorizing facts and equations to find the "right answer."

"We don't want kids just doing the numbers, but we want them to read, write, think and communicate to find the answers," Skitzki said.

Math teachers at the high school feel that these changes

are for the better.

"The trend is away from memorization, and I think this is good," math teacher Walter Slovickovski said. "The focus needs to be on applying the concepts, not just regurgitating facts."

Students are noticing the changes being made in their math classes.

"When I was in elementary school, all I had to do was memorize facts for timed tests. This year, I had to write a paragraph on a proof with triangles," sophomore Dan Updegraff said.

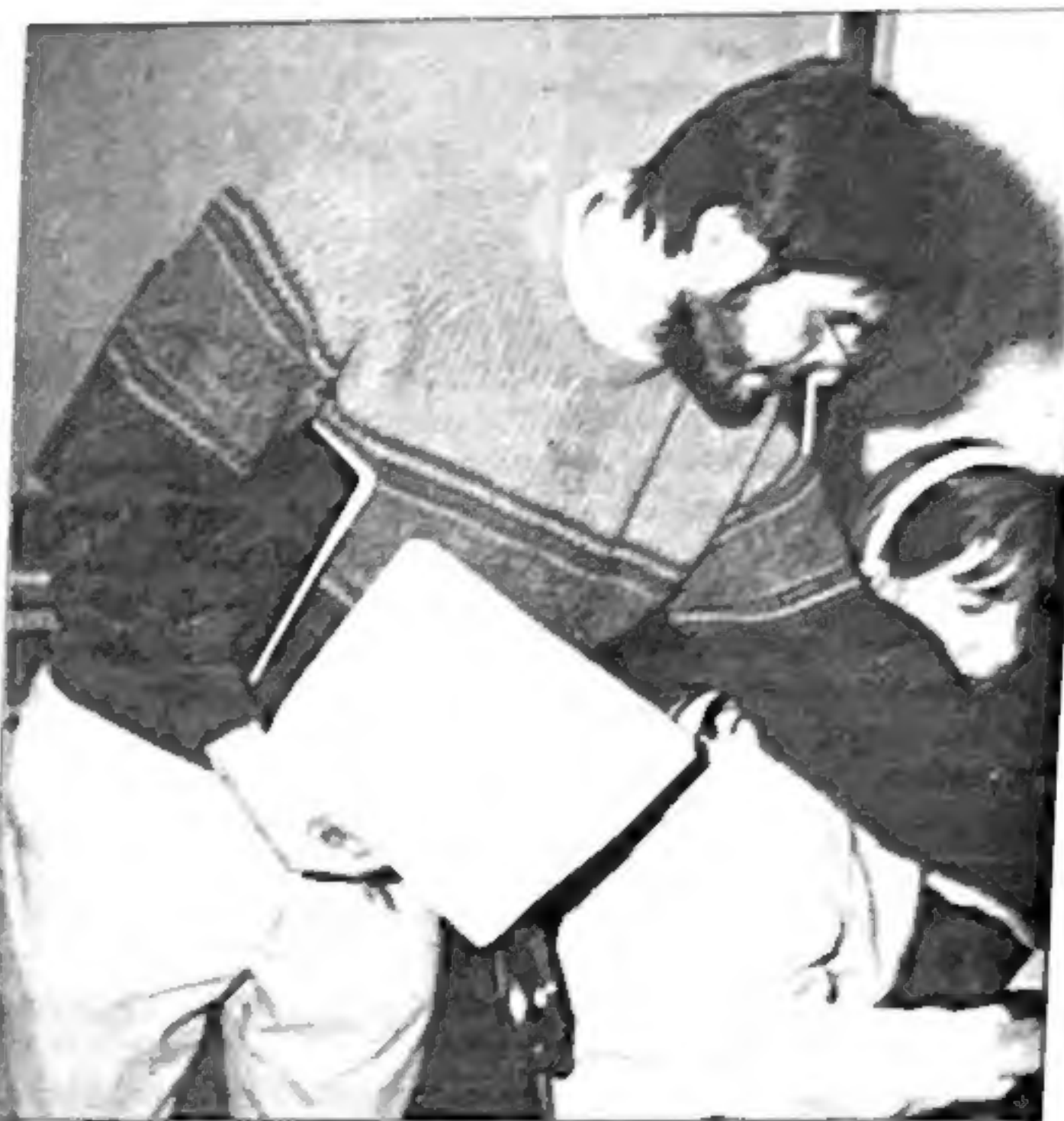
These changes are beginning prior to the high school level. Lomond Elementary School has made comparable changes in its math program.

Lomond has started using physical objects, such as blocks, to introduce graphing, data analysis, pre-algebra and plain and solid geometry to elementary school children.

"This exposes them to problems in the real world and tries to tell the kids why they need math," Lynn Cowen, director of the Lomond program said. "This extends to everyone and makes everyone believe that they can do it."

Skitzki is hoping that these children will employ the ideas they learned at Lomond and in other elementary schools when they enter the high school.

"In the past, when we wanted rocket scientists, we would take the brighter kids out of class and teach them to think while the average and slower kids would just learn to compute, basically memorize. Now I am hoping that by the time these kids get to the high school, they will all think," Skitzki said.



NOT JUST THE FACTS. Math department head Walter Slovickovski puts the new math approach, stressing concepts and placing less emphasis on memorization, to work in the classroom.

Shakerite photo by Jason Hamilton

Holiday shoppers overcome adversity to find perfect gift

BY LAURIE GREEN

Staff Reporter

'Dashing through the snow in a bright, red shiny sleigh,

To the malls we go, spending all the way.'

For some, the month of December is spent hunting for appropriate gifts for family and friends, and most will agree that the search is more difficult than it may appear.

According to senior Angie Bailey, the holiday season can become too expensive unless limits are set as to how many people to buy presents for during this time.

"I buy only for my immediate family and my closet friends, because shopping becomes too expensive when you try to buy for everyone," Bailey said.

Many students agree that a good strategy involves planning ahead and budgeting money to prepare for the holiday crunch.

"I try to plan ahead with collecting my money, but then I forget and wait until the last minute to gather all my money," sopho-



Shakerite artwork by Greg Gobel

more Stacey Jackson said.

Waiting until the last minute brings many setbacks such as crowds and picked-over merchandise.

"I'm usually lazy and wait until the last minute to do my holiday shopping, but then the problem becomes facing the crowds in the malls," senior Michelle McTier said.

Senior Amy Minkowetz, an employee at The Gap at Tower City, suggests planning ahead to avoid the last minute rush.

"We have already been jammed with customers and will probably get busier as the holidays approach," Minkowetz said.

Many students find a certain satisfaction in buying for their family and friends.

Junior Christiane Hoppmann enjoys planning her holiday shopping spree.

"I usually save my money for the holidays and plan ahead with gift ideas for each person," Hoppmann said.

Other students prefer to be spontaneous and purchase the first item that appeals to them.

"I buy the first thing that catches my eye, because if I look around too long, I won't be able to make up my mind," Jackson said.

While holiday shopping can be fun and rewarding, junior Brandon Bauer said long lines and overcrowded shopping areas add to the drawbacks of the holiday season.

Shopping malls have advantages and disadvantages, but some gift givers choose to bypass them altogether and make their own gifts.

Junior Becky Deutsch enjoys making gifts for her family.

"Gifts from the heart are better than store-bought gifts because they don't have a monetary value," Deutsch said. "They have a love value."

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African beat encourages multiculturalism

BY LESLY BLANTON
Staff Reporter

African drums throb in the background as a tall, dark statuesque man in a vibrant red robe flows to his internal rhythms. At the same time, a chorus of husky voices sing the songs people have sung for thousands of years.

This is not a scene from an exotic movie, but a taste of Chuck Davis' performance and lecture given for French and humanities students. Davis, an artist in residence and professor at Duke University, along with drummer Khalid Saleem and a female dancer, came to the high school to perform and instruct students on African dance, music and culture.

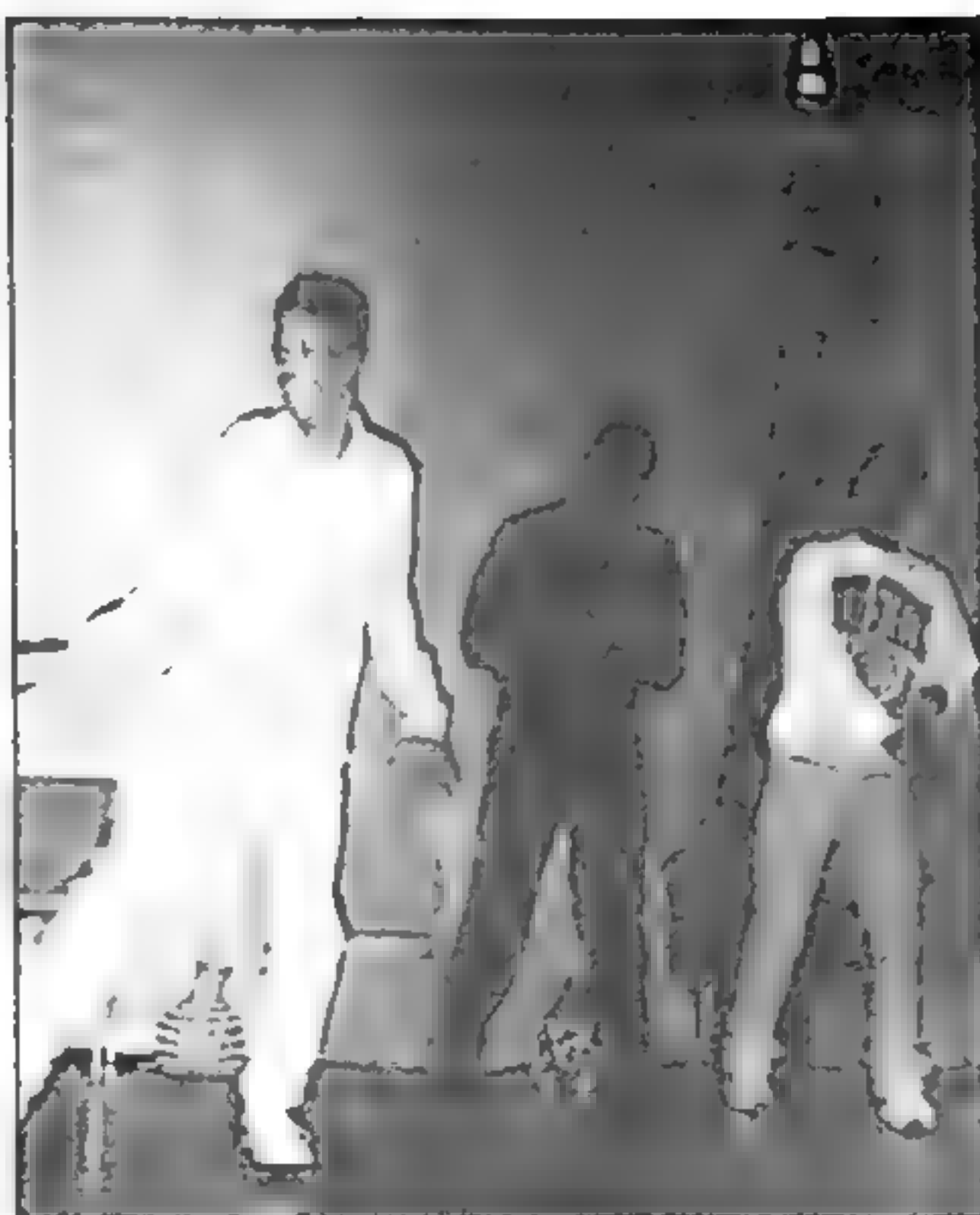
According to Davis, dancing is a large part of the African culture, and by bringing the assembly to the students, they were able to learn various meaningful dances. Davis demonstrated the welcoming dance which African societies performed to greet strangers into the village. Each movement of the arms was a specific welcoming message. Davis involved the entire audience by having them sing the welcoming song, "fungs-alafia-pshay pshay," while he danced.

The dance of the maturing male, called the Doom Doom Baag, was another dance performed. The Gaaga people from Guinea would take maturing males into the sacred woods to learn their culture, and upon their return, they danced the Doom Doom Baag.

Davis pulled male members of the audience and taught them five sections of the dance, which played homage to the earth, the elders and their ability as men. Each student dancer then made up his own dance step, displaying his individuality.

Female teachers were given an opportunity to demonstrate their dance skills, when Davis taught them the dance performed by women flaunting their jewels at festivals. In a high falsetto voice, Davis demonstrated how the women would perform before friends and family.

Davis and Saleem showed the audience how to construct the instruments used during the dances and explained the importance of the rituals of making these instruments. The drum, called the Jimbey, is made from a carefully selected tree; to help the drum sing, prayers are said and the



SETTING THE TEMPO. Students participate in a recent assembly featuring African dancer Chuck Davis. It was a successful attempt to promote multiculturalism.

Photo courtesy of Meredith Balcerzak

owner's name is chanted as the tree is hollowed out.

Davis also explained the making of an ashakey, an instrument similar to maracas. The hum of these two instruments filled the room with African beats.

Davis' unique rapport with the audience and the intensive dancing and music made his audience a part of the African experience.

"When the teachers and boys danced, I felt I was getting

into [the performance]. I felt that I was really a part of the [lecture]," juniors Aileen Jones said. "It was one of the best assemblies I have been to."

The students said they were having a good time learning new dances, but at the same time they were learning a new culture.

"I enjoyed the [lecture]. I felt it was a new experience for everyone. It brought a new meaning to those who did not know what Africa was all about," sophomore Duran Williams said.

After the performance, Davis held a question and answer period, giving students the opportunity to ask about AIDS, abortion and marriage in Africa.

During this time, Davis responded to a question about rap music, and this compelled Davis to mention his disgust with rapper, M.C. Hammer. He said that M.C. Hammer performed movements and wore clothing with African origins but failed to credit his influences.

He stressed rap's African origins which stem from the grillos, African oral historians.

"Africa has played a major part in modern music and times," Davis said.

French and Spanish teacher Edna Duffy also commented on Africa's musical influence.

"It was very significant that both Chuck Davis and Bruce Harrah-Conforth (the most recent speaker for the Cleveland 2000 program, who spoke of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame), stressed that American music, especially Rock and Roll, has been heavily influenced by African rhythms and the product thereof, as evidence in black American spirituals, blues gospel and jazz, thus making our American music a global composition," Duffy said.

According to Duffy, a recognition of the importance of multiculturalism was the primary reason for bringing Davis to the students.

"We cannot get all [the Shaker students] on a plane and go to Senegal, but we can have a little bit of Senegal brought to us, and that's what we did," Duffy said. "It was a joy for me to see Shaker Heights students enjoy learning about cultures different and yet so similar to their own. And the real glory was seeing the teachers and students participating together."

College courses challenge willing high school students

BY PRIYA KIRISHNAN
Staff Reporter

Walking up the aisle to the nearest available seat in the classroom, he imagines himself scrutinized by 200 college students.

"So what's your major?" he is asked.

And with blushed cheeks, he is forced to reply, "Oh, I'm only a high school student."

This true scenario may become more commonplace at universities, as high school students take advantage of the Post Secondary School Enrollment Option program, which allows them to earn college and high school graduation credit by completing college courses.

Some students enroll in college level courses to satisfy their interests, while others utilize this option as an outlet for fulfilling graduation requirements.

Sophomore Aaron Pierce said he had

taken all the math courses that Shaker offered and was able to pursue his math interests at a summer course, Introduction to Abstract Algebra, at John Carroll University.

Balancing time between "high" school work and "extra" school work has been stressful for some students.

"The courses by themselves are not stressful, but when you put it all together it

eurythmics at Cleveland Institute of Music.

On the other hand, junior Kate Isard, who is taking an AP art history class at the Cleveland Museum of Art, said that it was just like having another course at high school.

Junior Rahila Ansari, who is currently enrolled in an American government course at Cleveland State University, expressed similar ideas.



The high school students who take these courses usually do well because they are the better students in their schools. They are bound to do well."

—Sundaresan Kondagunta

makes it hell," said senior Erica Jacobs, who is enrolled in an organic chemistry class at Case Western Reserve University and

"It really doesn't make a difference to me," Ansari said.

Junior Jonathon Kliegman, who is tak-

ing a computer course at Case Western University, said his work load has been fairly easy so far.

The majority of the high school students do well in their college courses, Cleveland State University math professor Sundaresan Kondagunta said.

"The high school students who take these courses usually do well because they are the better students in their schools. They are bound to do well," Kondagunta said.

Problems arise when the question of leveling enters the Post Secondary Enrollment option.

"It's a shame that they only give us level three credit for a real college course," Jacobs said.

Ironically, senior Sarah Updegraff, who is also taking the art museum's AP art history course earns level five credit and the option of taking the AP exam to earn college credit.

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Nurse helps students weather the flu



HEALING THE SICK. School nurse Evelyn Wisham treats students complaining of flu-like symptoms. Wisham has aided Shaker students for 12 years.

Shakerite photo by Jason Hamilton

BY NANOR TABRIZI

Staff Reporter

Her office contains everything from tissues and thermometers to posters and student information pamphlets. School nurse Evelyn Wisham has been guiding Shaker students into good health since the fall of 1979.

"I first came in as a substitute for the original nurse who fell and hurt herself," Wisham said. "Back then, Shaker held a summer day camp at the high school, and I was nurse there. Even after I left and started substituting part time at an elementary school, I always said that whenever that nurse in the high school retired, that was the job I wanted."

Wisham has held numerous nursing jobs. Her experiences include working at Lincoln Hospital, University Hospital, and Highland View Hospital. At Highland View, she had extensive work rehabilitating people recovering from strokes or suffering from paralysis.

"You name it, I saw it," Wisham said. "In many ways, this [the high school] is like running an emergency room, but on a smaller scale," she said.

Despite the fact that she has held many jobs, Wisham said she most enjoys working at the high school.

"I enjoy my autonomy. I'm allowed to use what I need and I'm backed up by the administration and physical directors. The hours are also ideal when you're raising a family,"

Wisham said. "But the nicest part of my job is having a wonderful faculty and staff and working closely with guidance counselors and psychologists."

Because less than 25 percent of the student body and an even fewer amount of staff members were affected by the recent flu epidemic, Wisham said she was not as overwhelmed by it as she had expected to be.

Wisham said about 50 percent of her time is spent counseling teenagers on issues ranging from sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS to unwanted pregnancies.

"It is very common for a student to approach me for advice," Wisham said. "I always encourage students to talk to their parents about their problems. I've even handed them the phone at times. I also try to help them make their decisions quickly, and then I direct them toward the right facilities for help."

Wisham said she always tries to keep student's problems confidential unless she believes that the student's safety is in jeopardy.

Wisham said the interaction that occurs between her and her students is one of the greatest rewards of her job.

"I have a selfish reason for doing what I do," Wisham said. "It's a great feeling to help somebody and make them feel better. I enjoy thinking that I might have played a minor role in the lives of the future adults of the world. We all want to be thought kindly of when we leave."

SHAKER STUDENTS CAME DOWN WITH

THE FLU

Shaker emerges from epidemic unscathed

BY NANOR TABRIZI

Staff Reporter

You've long since run out of tissues and the orange juice hurts your throat. You're dizzy, hot and have just decided you've seen Sally tell her brother-in-law she's having his baby for the last time on any soap opera. Like countless others, you've been gripped with the perils of the flu epidemic.

Recently, Shaker students and faculty experienced the flu in all of its various forms.

"There are several strains of the flu going around," school nurse Evelyn Wisham said. "A lot of them have different forms. Some are just headaches and others progress to the state of pneumonia."

The situation has progressed to such an extent that a vaccine shortage was nationally declared. Remaining vaccine is reserved for the elderly or those whose health conditions make them more susceptible to the virus.

"If you're sick for a few days, sure, it's not pleasant but it's better than someone 55 years of age going to the hospital," said sophomore David Sher.

Although experts claim the vaccine shortage is under hand, a feeling that the shortage could be hazardous persists.

"The next batch [of the vaccine] won't be given until January and it won't do any good because the flu would have run its gamut by then," Wisham said. "Even then, it takes two weeks to produce antibodies for the virus."

For some, the effects of the flu may go beyond the physical toll.

"It didn't have too much effect on school, but I did lose my job because of it," senior Cedric Johnson said. "The boss was saying that I didn't give enough notice, like I had



any control of when I'd get the flu."

Freshman Emily Troia said she felt the effects of the flu scholastically and socially.

"I was already busy enough without being burdened by illness," Troia said.

Those who came down with the flu outside school, experienced minimal effects.

"It didn't really make a difference because I was sick over holiday," sophomore Gina Gagliardi said. "I don't remember much except for the fact that I missed Thanksgiving."

In fact, some used the virus as an opportunity to attain much needed rest.

"I missed a history test and watched the Simpsons," sophomore Brad Karfeld said.

However, relative to other regions, Shaker was only mildly hit by the virus.

"We must take better care of ourselves than we thought," Wisham said. "Maybe

parents should recognize the symptoms and keep their kids home, so the virus won't spread."

Personnel administrator William Trost attributed Shaker's relative immunity to the community.

"We live in a big city setting where we, compared to rural areas, have access to medical supplies and technology," Trost said. "We're also an aware and sophisticated community. We do things logically and with foresight. For example, employees could go to the city to get free shots."

Trost also attributed Shaker's persistence to remain open during the epidemic to the staff's dedication to their jobs. According to Trost, school is only closed if 75 percent of the staff is absent.

"Sometimes, even when teachers were not 100 percent okay, they still came in,"

Trost said. "We have been able to provide a substitute for every absence."

This action netted mixed reviews from the student body.

"I think it's pretty pathetic that most schools closed and Shaker didn't," Sher said. "Twenty-five percent is way too much. If 50 percent of students were sick, would they not close school and let 50 percent of students miss school?"

Junior Quianna Owens felt that keeping schools open threatened the individual health of students.

"It wasn't right," Owens said. "It got other people sick who didn't need to have the risk of getting sick."

Other students displayed more understanding toward the school board's decision.

"There weren't that many people out of school to make a school closing effective," senior Joanna Benn said.

No matter what the differences, most agree that having the flu is a thoroughly unpleasant experience.

"Comatose is a good word for it," junior Andy Cameron said. "I waited by my Theraflu every four hours so I could take it. It wasn't fun."

School psychologist Bonnie Jasunas also contracted the virus.

"It attacked my muscles. I was paralyzed and couldn't get up," Jasunas said. "My muscles felt as if they weighed 1,000 pounds and it took every effort to lift my arm or get out of bed. I wouldn't wish it on anybody."

However, as much as viruses rule our lives, we can do as much to counteract them. According to Wisham, proper rest, nutrition and intake of fluids as well as the frequent washing of hands are all effective in combating the virus.

Gym: Do we really need it?

BY JEFF EPSTEIN
Staff Reporter

Physical education at Shaker has been the subject of arguments and debates. A recent Shakerite survey shows that while many students like the current system, others disagree with the five-semester graduation requirement and other aspects of the curriculum.

"We should not be forced to take gym for more than our freshman year," said a junior. "After that, it should be an elective."

This opinion was echoed by many of the others surveyed, who felt that the state should reduce the requirements for physical education.

"Juniors and seniors should not have to take it," said another junior. "Their course load is hard enough."

Physical education teacher Jill Allen disagreed. She felt that gym can help develop social skills and creativity, and that five semesters of gym is a correct amount.

"I think a majority of the students like that time of the day in gym," she said.

One student disagreed with Allen, angered with the lack of variety of courses from which to choose.

"Physical education is no fun if you are constantly doing activities you don't like," a freshman said.

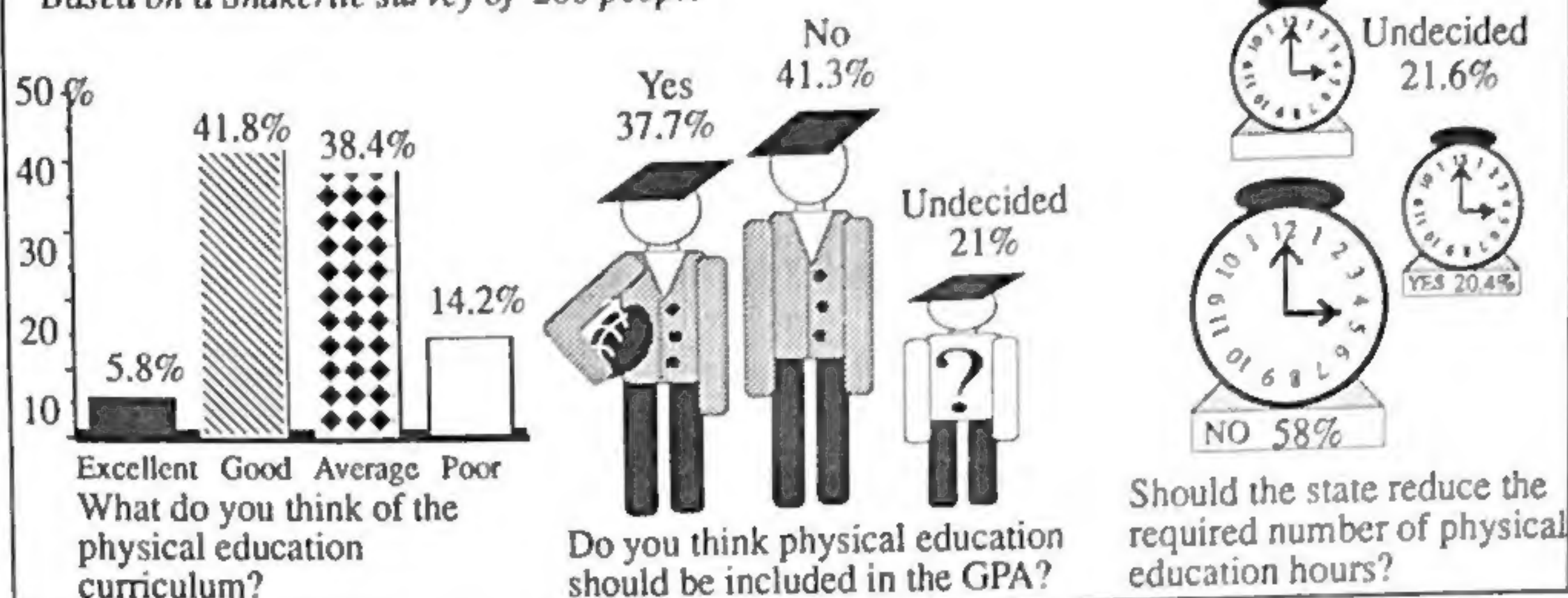
Allen also said the Shaker physical education requirement is "above standard state regulations."

According to the survey, 59.2 percent of the students felt that the state should cut the number of required semesters for graduation.

"Why do we have to take five semesters if it is in the way of my taking a broader selection of classes?" asked one junior.

The relatively recent addition of gym class into a student's grade point average has almost an equal number of supporters and opponents, according to the survey. Of those polled, 41.3 percent believed that physical education should

Shaker students want changes in physical education curriculum Based on a Shakerite survey of 200 people



be excluded from GPA, while 37.7 percent agreed to its incorporation into GPA.

"Physical education at Shaker has become a hassle because in a school so grade-conscious, having to take a college preparatory class ruins people's GPAs," said a sophomore.

The debate over whether or not athletics should be excused from gym during their seasons still continues.

"All students involved in a sport should receive full physical education credit for the duration of their season," said a junior. "After all, the goal of gym is to provide a sense of physical fitness and teamwork, and playing a sport does just that."

Another student wrote that freshman and junior varsity players should be excused only on the day of competition, whereas varsity members would be allowed to sit out gym during the entire season.

Other students suggested a change in emphasis during

the physical education class period.

"More importance should be placed on effort, and students who are not as skilled as others should not be ridiculed," said a freshman.

The curriculum has also posed problems for some students. One questioned the importance of taking gym.

"CPR, health courses and swimming are all assets," one freshman said. "I really don't care how well I perform in gym, though."

Others had constructive criticism for the gym period.

"We need longer periods so we can get dressed with more than just the usual five minutes," a freshman said.

A junior complained of the weight training curriculum, and stated that the teachers expect too much from the female participants.

"I think the requirements for girls in the weight training class are ridiculous," she said. "The amount of weight you are expected to lift is way too much for some girls."

Fencing club finds success in basement

BY JONAS GREEN
Staff Reporter

In a long, low room in the basement, surrounded by dusty utility pipes and dimly glowing lights, two opponents glare at each other through tightly wired meshed helmets. A director says: "fence" - there is a flash of steel, a lunge, a ripostio, a riposte, a fleche... touché!

This is a drama which repeats itself every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday night when the Alcazar Fencing Club, along with seven Shaker fencers, meets in the basement fencing room.

The Alcazar Club, coached and trained by veteran fencer William Reith, is well respected, and despite its relatively small size of around 50 members, it competes well against other clubs throughout the nation, some of which boast more than 200 members.

The club consists of nine high school students, about as many adults, and 30 elementary school students; however, the focus is mainly on those at the high school level. Of the seven Shaker fencers, including freshman Alex Loeb, juniors I-Han Go, I-Huei Go, Eliezer Gurarie, and Brendan Sheeran, and seniors Justin Burmeister and Jeff Stear, most place in the top 20 at tournaments all the way up to the National Circuit and Junior Olympic level.

Fencing, which dates back to ancient times, is divided into three distinct sports, sabre, epee, or foil, each with varying weapons, rules and styles.

The objective in the sport of fencing is to score five points by hitting the opponent with the tip of the weapon, while at the same time parrying their thrusts. The only exception is sabre, with which hitting with the side of the blade is also valid. For each weapon there are designated target areas for which the points are legal. Once a point is scored, both return to their respective en garde lines and a new engagement begins.

In November, four Shaker fencers competed in the North American Youth/Cadet Tournament in St. Paul, Minn. I-Han Go came in 19th place fencing women's epee, I-Huei Go and Gurarie placed in eighth and 18th place, respectively,



TIME TO TOUCHE. A fencer prepares to joust during a recent practice. The Alcazar fencing club meets three nights a week here.

Shakerite photo by Jeremy Kahn

fencing epee, Sheeran placed 14th fencing sabre, and Burmeister placed 58th fencing foil.

Burmeister, Sheeran, Gurarie and I-Han and I-Huei Go also qualified for the Junior Olympics, to be held next February in Kansas City, Mo.

Junior I-Han Go also takes fencing very seriously. Her goals include competing in the National Junior Championships, and eventually even in the world championships.

"I'm shooting to place in the top eight in the Junior Olympics for the next two or three years," she said.

In his 27 years of fencing, Reith says that the peak of his career was winning the last match in the 1975 Pan Am Games against the Cubans. It was the deciding victory and the U.S. Team won the gold.

According to Reith, the current members of the fencing club are strong, each member usually placing in the top 20 in competitions. The future of the club lies in the hands of those students currently in elementary school.

"[Alcazar] has been growing very strongly here at Shaker," he said. "The under-15 and under-17 fencers are competing strongly in the nationals. I'm looking forward to a national champion soon."

Wrestlers strive for weight loss to face competition

BY MARK SMITH
Staff Reporter

Think back to Thanksgiving. Remember the turkey with stuffing and gravy? Well, now imagine what it would be like to have vegetables and water instead.

The wrestlers certainly know what it is like to sip water instead of eating a turkey dinner.

In order to reach a certain weight class, many wrestlers have to lose an excessive amount of weight in a rather short period of time.

Senior Peter Nathanson, one of the captains of the wrestling team, said he had to pay close attention to the scale.

"I pounds 140 this

said.

He men - still has

five more pounds. He admitted it is difficult process to lose weight so quickly.

"It's kind of hard not to eat," Nathanson said.

Senior Andy Topoly, another captain of the team, said he had to lose fifteen pounds to reach his weight class.

On Thanksgiving he ate one plate of food, but by December he had eaten even less.

"[I've lost weight] by not eating or drinking," Topoly said.

Losing weight may mean having to give up what many might consider to be necessary foods for survival.



lost eight to get to week," Nathanson

then tioned he to lose

SEE WRESTLING/16

In the depths of the waters...

Diving team begins season strongly

BY JON JABLOW
Staff Reporter

The diving team is amidst an excellent season with only one loss and is currently looking for their second straight LEL title, despite losing Megan Mayhugh to graduation this past year.

"We miss her positive energy as well as her talent," said junior Davidione Pearl.

To counterbalance her loss, senior David Bosse is the newest addition to the team.

"I'm having a good time with [diving] and am glad that I was able to dive for Shaker this year," he said.

The goals of this year's revamped team have been set high but are attainable, according to junior Anthony Gantous.

"Solon and Hudson present the toughest regular season challenges and beating them will be difficult," he said.

Gantous was right because Hudson defeated Shaker on Dec. 4.

Several of the teammates agreed that the district tournament is their most important desired accomplishment. All the divers have individual goals, as well.

"I would like to see the team place high in districts as well as qualify for the state tournament," senior Jennifer Hughes said.

Pearl is more concerned with districts as well as his new dive than with qualifying for post-season tournaments.

Jerry Rosenthal, the diving coach, plays an important role in his swimmer's daily lives, according to Gantous.

"Coach Rosenthal is always there for you," he said.

Hughes agreed and said the team's bond can be attributed to Rosenthal's congeniality.

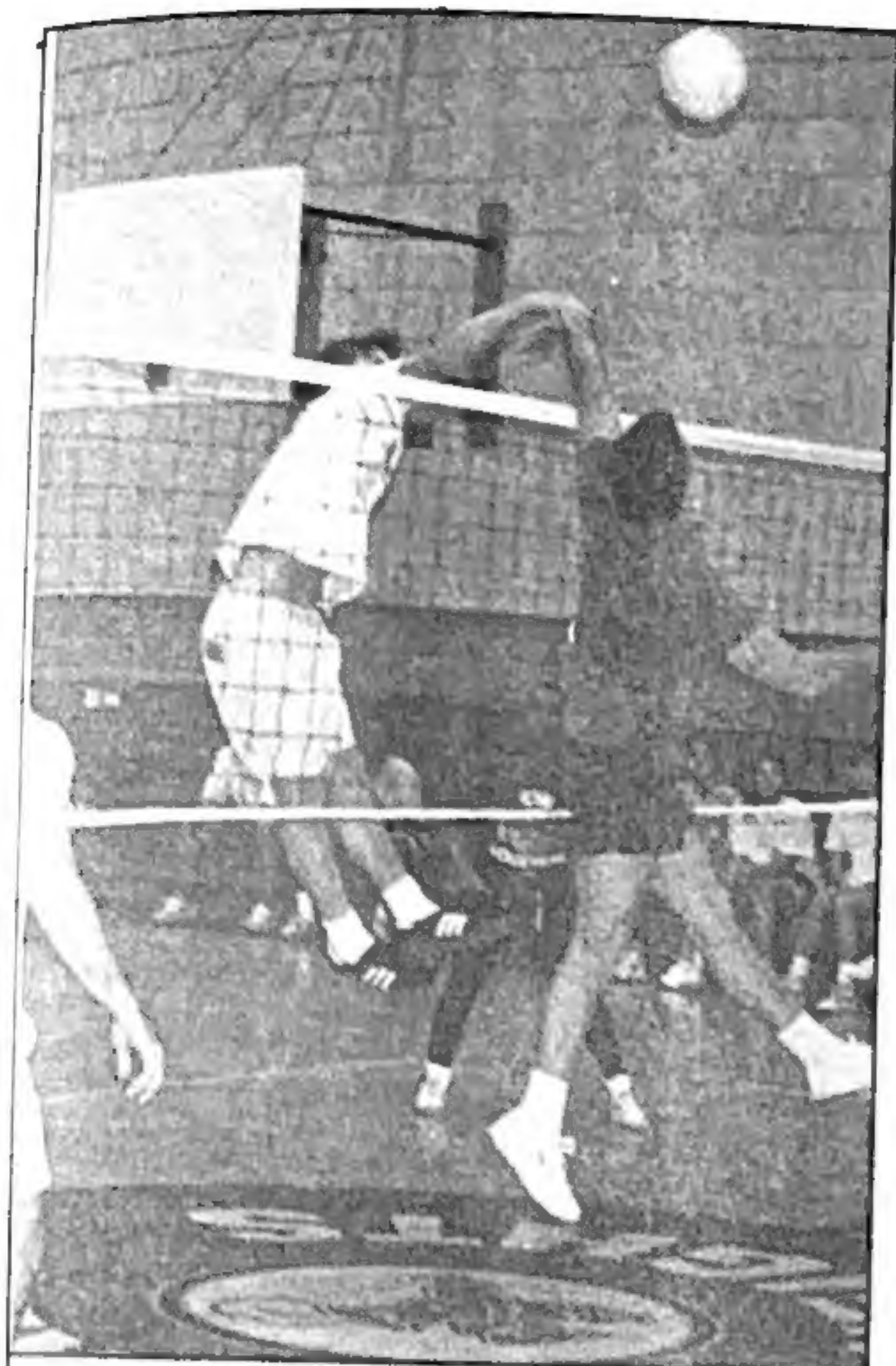
"Mr. Rosenthal has a friendship with the team which is one reason the team is so close," she said.

Success as a diver requires two key talents, according to Gantous. He said that diving is 10 percent skill and 90 percent concentration.



GOING FOR THE GOLD. Junior Davidione Pearl concentrates on his dive during a recent meet. He attributes the success of a dive to one's ability to not over-rationalize it.

Photo courtesy of Gristmill



UP, UP AND AWAY. Senior Matt Fader goes up against Buddy Longo, social studies teacher, during the Dec. 10 volleyball match between teachers and the captains of fall sports teams. The students decisively won the first game, but the teachers came back and narrowly won the second. In the third and final game, which was cut short because of time, the captains claimed victory.

Shakerite photo by Josh Harris

Administration, local media deprive team of recognition

BY ERIC BOLAND
Staff Reporter

After watching and reading about St. Ignatius' third state football championship in four years and then seeing their school's pep rally on T.V., I have to wonder where the coverage and recognition was for the women's field hockey team after it won Shaker's first state title for any sport in 11 years.

An announcement was made the Friday after their victory about a TV-8 feature the next day at six. Anyone who watched (and you had to without blinking or you would have missed it) saw a five-second spot in which the sportscaster merely congratulated them while showing a video highlight.

The video was a good idea, but it was blurry and none of the players were recognizable. If the sportscaster did not say that the clipping was about field hockey, I would never have known. The other stations did not even bother with coverage.

Speaking of nothing, the Plain Dealer hit rock bottom with their scholastic sports page. The day after the field hockey team's victory, the Plain Dealer put the story, if you wish to call it that, at the bottom of the page, where only the players and their parents would notice it.

The Plain Dealer places little emphasis on scholastic sports and does not give every team the credit and recognition they deserve. Simply because women's field hockey is not a big-name sport like basketball or football, it does not mean the ladies' efforts are any less admirable. They worked just as hard for their title as St. Joe's or St. Ignatius did

winning their state championships in basketball and football, respectively.

Furthermore, because private schools can recruit and give scholarships, they win virtually every state title in virtually every sport. Thus, public schools like ours usually go 10 years or more without winning a championship.

Once again, the T.V. stations and the Plain Dealer screwed up. They failed to provide coverage. It is so unusual for a public school to win, so we deserved extra attention.

However, the biggest injustice done to the field hockey team was by this school. In other schools after a state championship a big pep rally is held and the players are regarded as heroes. In this school, they were called princesses on the announcements. If that is not sexism then I don't know what is. The title of "princess" suggests a lazy and spoiled attitude, which is not the case.

Although I do not think that was the intention of the announcement, I think an apology is in order. Instead of being congratulated by their peers, the players have been further embarrassed with this "noble" title.

We needed a pep rally where all players would be recognized individually for their contributions to the team. Of course, the administration probably believes that we already have too many assemblies. It is more important, however, for the students of this school to be called to an assembly to congratulate a state championship team, than to listen to 'Cleveland 2000' assemblies.

What does this say about all parties involved? Well, the T.V. stations and Plain Dealer may be ignorant, but this school has done much worse. The lack of recognition by our administration shows that they do not care much about the accomplishments of our athletes, which is, unfortunately, the saddest story of all.

COMMENTARY

Shaker Rec Programs
Winter 1992

Preparation for the SAT

Get the help you need to overcome test anxiety. Learn strategies developed by the Townsend Learning Center to enable you to do your very best on the SAT.

- Classes begin February 26
- Eight weeks
- Wednesday evenings - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Shaker Heights High School
- Fee: \$175, residents; \$205, non-residents

Lifeguard Training

Get a jump on the summer job market - become a lifeguard. This course is designed by the American Red Cross and provides entry-level training for pool and non-surf lifeguards.

- Classes begin January 26
- Eight weeks
- Sundays 4:15 to 8:15 p.m.
- Woodbury School
- Fee: \$55, residents; \$65, non-residents

Holiday Valley Ski Trip

Enjoy a day on the slopes

- Friday, February 14
- Bus leaves Middle School at 6:00 a.m. and returns at 9:30 p.m.
- Fee: \$62, residents; \$74, non-residents
- (\$15 equipment rental fee payable at Holiday Valley)

Register for these classes on January 4
at Thornton Park Administrative Center
20101 Farnsleigh Road

For more information, call Kevin Crowe, 491-1495.

Wrestling FROM PAGE 14

"I eat a lot of fruits," Topoly said. "But I give up all junk food, McDonald's and pop."

He admitted that he loses three to four pounds a day on that regimen.

Junior Mike Register admitted his diet is not a normal one, either. He also runs to burn the calories that prevent him from losing weight.

"I had to bring my diet from 2,000 calories to less than 800 calories," he said. "That means nothing between meals and no snacks."

Students in the cafeteria may have noticed that wrestlers do not eat much during lunch.

"I have juice for lunch, cereal for breakfast, and a normal dinner," Register said.

While continuing to lose weight, the Shaker varsity and junior varsity wrestlers have begun their season.

In a tournament in Franklin County on Saturday there were six placers on the team, according to Nathanson.

He said that three team members placed third, including Topoly, junior Jamel Weaver and senior George Goins. Nathanson placed first and there were two fourth place finishers.

Nathanson was satisfied with the team's performance.

"Everyone is a good wrestler," he said. "The people who didn't place [on Saturday] were in difficult weight classes."

Register was pleased with the junior varsity team's performance as well.

"The JV team is doing well and that surprises me," he said.

Nathanson was optimistic about the team's chances this year.

"We have a chance to win the LEL this year," he said. "And the match with Valley Forge will be interesting."

RED RAIDER WRAP-UP

Team	Record	Schedule
VARSITY		
Mens Basketball	3-0	Dec. 20 (at Normandy 6:15 pm), Dec. 26 and 27 (at Tri. C), Jan. 4 (Cleveland Hts. 10:00 am)
Womens Basketball	0-4	Dec. 20 (at Regina 6:00 pm), Jan. 4 (at Strongsville 2:00 pm), Jan. 8 (at Cleveland Hts. 6:15 pm)
Wrestling	0-1	Dec. 20 and 21 (at Richmond Hts. Tourn.), Dec. 27 and 28 (at Brecksville Tourn.)
Ice Hockey	1-1-1	Dec. 20-22 (Thornton Tourn.), Dec. 26-29 (at Bowling Green Tourn.), Jan. 3 (St. Edward 9:00 pm)
Swimming (Mens and Womens)	5-1 4-1-1	Dec. 20 (at Lakewood 7:00 pm), Dec. 21 (at Solon Relays), Dec. 27 and 28 (at Heights Relays)
JUNIOR VARSITY		
Mens Basketball	2-1	Dec. 20 (at Normandy/before Varsity), Dec. 26 and 27 (at Tri. C), Jan. 4 (Cleveland Hts./before Varsity)
Wrestling	1-1	Dec. 20 and 21 (Richmond Hts. Tourn), Dec. 27 and 28 (Brecksville Tourn.)

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association



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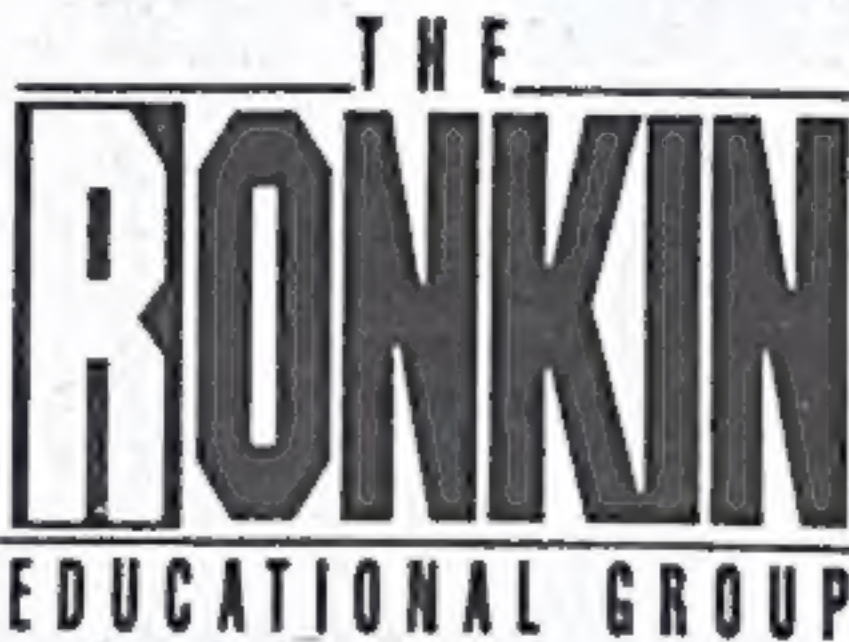
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